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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-010
Tuesday
16 January 1990

# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-90-010* *16 January 1990*

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Syrian, Egyptian Presidents To Meet 16 Jan

*JN1501081490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Doha, 15 Jan (WAKH)—Press reports today expected that the Egyptian-Syrian summit meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad will take place in Syria tomorrow, Tuesday. The Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH cited well-informed sources as saying that the intensive contacts that were held recently between Cairo and Damascus resulted in an agreement on the date of the Mubarak-al-Asad meeting.

### Saddam Pledges To Defend Jordan From Israel

*JN1401173490 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 13 Jan 90 p 1*

[Text] AL-MUHARRIR has learned that President Saddam Husayn has promised King Husayn to give full military support to Jordan in the event it is subjected to Israeli aggression.

President Saddam told the Jordanian king, who visited Baghdad to attend the Iraqi Army celebrations, that Iraq will not hesitate to use its various advanced military capabilities to defend Jordan if Israeli troops make any provocations.

Last week, the Jordanian-Israeli border near Syria was the scene of a series of military skirmishes during which a Jordanian soldier, who—Israeli troops claim—crossed with his weapon to the west of the Jordan River, and was killed.

Observers fear that Israel will escalate the situation on the border with Jordan and use it as a pretext to make a military strike and deport thousands of Palestinian citizens from the occupied territories to the east of the Jordan River.

AL-MUHARRIR has also learned that King Husayn, who had a lengthy telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad before travelling to Baghdad, has again proposed to President Saddam the idea of a reconciliation between himself and President al-Asad, in view of major international developments that call for the unity of Arab ranks and adopting the principle of Arab self-reliance.

Informed Arab sources told AL-MUHARRIR that the Iraqi president showed great understanding of the king's mediation, although he did not drop all of his reservations because of what he termed "the experience of previous abortive attempts to achieve Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation."

In a related development, Jordanian Senate member Hamad al-Farhan is currently trying to form a high-level diplomatic delegation of Jordanian senators, deputies, and political and nationalist figures to travel to Baghdad and Damascus to urge the Syrian and Iraqi presidents to meet and end the estrangement between their countries.

It has been learned that Al-Farhan, who asked officials in Damascus and Baghdad for their opinions on this move, received positive and encouraging responses from both capitals.

### Arab League Tripartite Group To Meet in Algiers

*LD1401232190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Algeria will host a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon tomorrow to examine ways to speed up the resolution of the Lebanese crisis. Hassiba Hocine will tell us more about this:

[Hocine] The foreign ministers of the tripartite committee will examine in Algiers tomorrow, Monday, the committee's next move to speed up the resolution of Lebanon's crisis and implement all the clauses of the al-Ta'if agreement. This ministerial meeting will also assess the committee's activities before putting forward proposals to its three leaders, President Chadli Bendjedid, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and King Hassan II. In this respect, well-informed sources in Algiers are not ruling out that one of the proposals will be the dissolution of the higher tripartite committee and a call for holding an emergency Arab summit on Lebanon.

In addition to the committee's foreign ministers, tomorrow's meeting will also be attended by the committee's emissary, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, who informed the Syrian foreign minister in Damascus today about the consultations he held in the past 3 days with the various parties concerned by Lebanon's crisis, notably President Ilyas Hirawi, who replaced the late Rene Mu'awwad, assassinated last November.

#### Meeting Begins 15 Jan

*LD1501140490 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Algiers, 15 Jan (APS)—The Arab League Tripartite Committee in charge of finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis met Monday here in presence of foreign ministers of Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Morocco and the emissary of the Arab League, Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

The ministers put the final touch on a document they prepared on the matter before submitting it to the heads of state, members of the higher committee.

### Egypt's Sidqi Arrives in Baghdad for ACC Meetings

*JN1601071890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2155 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi arrived here tonight leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq during which he will attend meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Ministerial Council scheduled to begin tomorrow, Tuesday.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi was accorded an official welcome headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; RCC member Sa'dun Shakir; Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi; and a number of ministers.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi is accompanied by an official delegation that includes Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport; Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of industry; Muhamad Mutwalli Mahjub, minister of Awqaf; 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haqq, minister of manpower and training; Counselor Ahmad Radwan, secretary general of the Egyptian Council of Ministers; and the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad.

### Maghreb Union Ministers Meet in Tunis 12-13 Jan

*LD1401181790 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Tunis, Jan. 13 (MAP)—The Council of Foreign Ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) started its works here Friday [12 January] afternoon with the participation of the foreign ministers of the UMA five member countries (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia).

The opening session was marked by the addresses of the Moroccan and Tunisian Foreign Ministers Abdellatif Filali and Abdelhamid Escheikh, respectively outgoing and new chairman of the council.

Filali underlined in his address Maghreban leaders' common determination to make of the union an efficient instrument for the progress of Maghreban countries and for their economic, social and cultural development.

The Moroccan foreign minister said UMA is determined to consolidate peace in the world and to establish a fruitful cooperation with other regional groupings. "...Despite some difficulties, that are inherent in any edification, we have all worked with enthusiasm, seriousness, responsibility and firm determination to bestow on our Maghreban action credibility and efficiency", Filali said expressing satisfaction at the positive achievements recorded during the first UMA presidential mandate assumed by Morocco.

This mandate recorded, thanks to the understanding and collaboration of all, beneficial results, he said pointing out that the UMA structures, set up during this mandate, are an efficient instrument for carrying out the union's action programs.

Abdelhamid Escheikh on his part paid tribute to King Hassan II for the action he conducted at the UMA chairmanship pointing out that thanks to the joint efforts and to the same spirit that marked Maghreban action both in Zeralda, Algeria, and in Marrakech, Morocco, another phase of the unifying action will be triggered in Tunis.

Escheikh stressed the importance of the Foreign Ministers' Council meeting since it will prepare the Maghreban summit that will make "wise decisions" to carry on the common action and reach the expected goals.

The Tunisian foreign minister reiterated his country's strong determination to fully shoulder its responsibility and carry on efforts to speed up the edification of the Maghreban community.

"...This union we are setting ourselves to edify is an additional asset for the joint Arab action in the context of the Arab League, like the other Arab regional groupings," Escheikh said.

After the opening session, the Foreign Ministers Council carried on its work behind closed doors.

The foreign ministers who resumed their meetings this Saturday morning are to release a joint communique later in the afternoon.

### Received by President Ben Ali

*LD1401184390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has expressed satisfaction with the results of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers' Council of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] that was held in Tunis on 12 and 13 January, in preparation for the first session of the Presidential Council of the Union, which is due to be held in Tunis on 21, 22 and 23 of this month. [passage omitted]

His excellency the president praised the great work undertaken by His Majesty King Hassan II in consolidating the foundations and structures of the UMA. He affirmed Tunisia's determination to exert its utmost efforts in order to give impetus to the building of Maghreban unity, thereby implementing the aspirations of the peoples of the region for integration and impregnability [as heard].

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali asked the foreign ministers to convey his fraternal greetings to the leaders of their countries.

### Ministers' Meeting Ends

*LD1401182790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the Arab Maghreb Union Foreign Ministers Council ended in Tunis a short while ago. The five ministers discussed the final preparations for the holding of the forthcoming summit conference on 21, 22, and 23 January. Our correspondent Noureddine Boutakia has sent us this dispatch:

[Begin Boutakia recording] The ministers' discussions included all issues and recommendations adopted by the follow-up committee during its meetings that began on 9 January. The radio team has learned from an informed

source that the Algerian delegation made some proposals, one of which is related to the internal constitution of the Ministers's Council, which calls for the council's meeting every 2 months instead of waiting for the leaders' meetings.

The Algerian proposal was accepted, noting that the follow-up committee suggested a meeting of the council over 3 months. We have also learned that the agenda of sectors committees has been adopted—they are to meet during the first 3 months of this year. Consequently, the Food Safety Committee will meet in Morocco, the Finance Committee will meet in Algeria, the interior ministers are to meet in Nouakchott, the Human Resources Committee will meet in Tunis, and the Committee for Foundations Structures will meet in Libya. The same source informed us that the ministers accepted most of the recommendations as proposed by the follow-up committee; these recommendations include the increase of the number of the Council from 10 to 20 members. This recommendation will be submitted to the leaders' summit scheduled for 21 January.

In addition to these issues, other matters were discussed, particularly the chairmanship term, noting that the constitution stipulates this term to be 6 months, and the issue of the union's permanent secretariat that could be decided by the leaders' summit on 21 January. [passage omitted] [end recording]

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Threatens To 'Abandon' Peace Initiative

*JN1301101690 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Jan 90 p 1*

[By Amjad Nasir and Basim Sakkijha]

[Excerpt] Cairo—Yesterday, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat threatened to return to the Palestine National Council and to abandon the peace initiative if the American and Israeli stands continue with their present negativeness. Opening Palestine's Culture and Artistic Days in Cairo last night, 'Arafat said: "The U.S. Administration and half of the Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Shamir turn a deaf ear to the Arab Palestinian peace initiative in the region."

President 'Arafat said that everybody must understand that his options are open to all possibilities. He said: "I have not taken off my khaki uniform; I am still wearing it. I will not surrender." He added: "We are seeking peace, not capitulation."

'Arafat criticized the total U.S. support for Israel. He said that some of Israel's allies speak Hebrew and Arabic.

President 'Arafat disclosed in front of scores of ranking Palestinian and Arab artists that President Mubarak informed him before the Israeli response to the Baker plan was divulged that "if the Israelis make changes in it, you have the right to makes changes, too."

'Arafat hinted that the main obstacle is still the issue of forming the Palestinian delegation. He said: "How can an enemy impose on his enemy the members of the delegation to the negotiations? He greeted Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, who expressed his readiness to meet with him and talk with the PLO.

'Arafat reviewed all peace initiatives since his visit to the United Nations in 1974 and Israel's obstacles to these initiatives. 'Arafat said: We are not Red Indians; we are the elite, but the Israelis are not.

'Arafat noted that a number of women from the Palestinian Women's Federation called on him to change the name of the city of Jerusalem into "Jalalabad" in order to receive Arab and Islamic support.

### PLO Welcomes U.S. Statement, Warns of 'Extremism'

*LD1201141290 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] Tunis, 11 Jan (TAP)—Mr Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, announced that the PLO is continuing to exert concentrated efforts to remove the obstacles from the path of the peace process in the Middle East.

In a statement sent yesterday to TAP he said: We are committed to the peace cause. Therefore the PLO will continue its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East in spite of the stances of the Israeli government which constitute the only obstacle in the way of commencing the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue which is proposed to be held in Cairo.

Abu Sharif added that the statement by Mrs Tutwiler, the U.S. State Department spokesman, that Mr Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, is continuing his efforts and attempts within the peace process in the Middle East, is an encouraging and positive matter. Also her confirmation that Mr Baker insists on his five points is also positive. But we stress to Mr Baker that the situation has become very dangerous and could explode, which makes Mr Baker directly responsible for taking the brave decision—in order to restore confidence to those who love and pursue peace—that the United States is able to adhere to its stances, promises, and principles and is able to disregard the blackmail attempts by Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, who is known to international and U.S. public opinion as an obstacle in the way of peace.

Mr Bassam Abu Sharif said: "The PLO has launched the Palestinian peace project from a position of strength and not weakness. The PLO will continue to adhere to the resolutions of the Palestinian parliament, but it will not accept the silence adopted by some forces responsible for

international peace about the killing of unarmed Palestinian children and citizens by the Israeli occupation forces."

Bassam Abu Sharif continued: "We do not think that President Bush and Mr Baker do not know the accurate details of these murder crimes." He stressed: "Our people love peace and work hard for it, but our people also know how to defend themselves and how to resist the occupation. We hope that Mr Baker will not waste the current opportunity for peace in the Middle East by his continuous submission to the pressures of the Israeli government, because this is not the way to find a solution but to close the path to the political solution."

Abu Sharif concluded: "Hesitation at this moment does not only mean the stagnation of the settlement efforts, it also means moving toward extremism. Do President Bush and Mr Baker want to blow the region up and subjugate it to the extremists? We think that President Bush and Mr Baker have the good intention of establishing peace in the Middle East, But peace cannot be established by rewarding the occupiers, keeping silent about the violations of human rights, and subjecting U.S. policies to the decisions of the Israeli government."

### Mahmud 'Abbas on Continuing U.S. Dialogue

*LD1401102190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0717 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 14 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official Sunday praised Kuwait for financial and moral support it has been rendering to the Palestinian people and stressed that escalating the ongoing uprising and diplomatic drive by the PLO are two complementary factors for realizing the independent state of Palestine.

Mahmud 'Abbas, better known as "Abu Mazin" told KUNA in an exclusive interview during his recent visit here that the PLO would not break off its present dialogue with the United States under any circumstances.

Answering a question on the wide-spreading speculations that the PLO had asked Egypt to stop its efforts, in cooperation with Washington and Tel Aviv, for holding direct Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo, Abu Mazin said.

The Palestinian leadership has never asked Cairo to cease its political efforts in this regard, noting that "on the contrary they view Egypt's endeavours as significant and must continue."

Abu Mazin urged for further Arab solidarity and backing for the Palestinian uprising and for supporting the PLO's diplomatic drive.

Regarding the present Arab financial support to the intifadah, he stated that only few countries were meeting their commitments. "I would like to assert our appreciation and gratitude for Kuwait in this respect as it was among only three or four countries who meet their commitments towards the PLO and the intifadah."

Abu Mazin, who concluded a visit to Yugoslavia on Friday, denied that he met with any Israeli official during his stay here, but he expressed PLO's readiness for further negotiations and contacts with pro-peace Israeli groups.

He emphasized that he was prepared to hold talks with Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman "due to his brave and farsighting attitude and because he (Weizman) had discovered before many others the realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"The demand by Weizman, who was known for his political and military role against the Arabs, to recognize the PLO as legitimate representative of the Palestinian people has special meaning," Abu Mazin said.

This means, he went on, that those who fiercefully fought against us were recognizing our existence, steadfastness and our strength and representation of our people.

The Palestinian official reiterated that the PLO was ready to sit for negotiations with any Israelis who want to find solution for the Palestinian problem, saying that the organization has nothing to fear in this regard.

He noted that there was growing support for the Palestinian people's rights among the Israelis and "the Zionist hardliners who oppose the Palestinian presence and the right of Palestinian people for self-determination were also increasing but slightly and [word indistinct] behind the rate of supporters," he said.

Abu Mazin believed that pro-peace Israelis would at the end succeed and he said recent statistics revealed that 28 percent of the hardline Likud party's members were supporting negotiations with the PLO.

The Palestinian official, expressed satisfaction over recent resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria and said the PLO was keen on normalizing its relations too with Damascus.

He disclosed that a high-level Palestinian delegation would visit the Syrian capital shortly to discuss the future prospects of Palestinian-Syrian links, asserting that the dialogue with Damascus would be held "without pre-conditions from both sides" and that "everything would be subject to discussion."

On recent call by former Palestinian National Council, PNC, speaker Khalid al-Fahum for unity among various Palestinian groups and the need to "re-organize the Palestinian home", Abu Mazin said "the Palestinian home is now well-organized and need no rearrangements."

Instead, he called on Al-Fahum to assume his role as member of the PNC saying that his seat is still preserved. He also called on the pro-Syrian groups, namely the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) of Ahmad Jibril and the Sa'iqah

organization to rejoin the Palestinian ranks, asserting that their positions within the PLO's institutions are also maintained.

### Political 'Split' Within PFLP-GC Ranks Reported

*JN1401120790 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Jan 90 p 1*

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] led by Ahmad Jibril is suffering from a covert organizational and political split in its ranks and that the Political Bureau, which is the PFLP-GC's highest authority, has not met for several months, thus deepening the split in its ranks.

Highly placed Palestinian sources in Damascus said that there are now two conflicting wings in the front's ranks. The first is led by Ahmad Jibril and is supported by the front's military wing, and the second is led by Talal Naji, Jibril's deputy, which is backed by Political Bureau member 'Umar al-Shihabi and the heads of the political and organizational departments of the front.

The sources attribute the split to major differences between the two factions on the dissolution of the Palestine National Salvation Front and on unifying the Palestinian groups under PLO leadership, something that Ahmad Jibril rejects. There are also differences over the close ties which Jibril established with certain states on his own without sounding out the front's Political Bureau, which stands against such ties. There are also administrative and organizational differences between the two factions, especially with regard to the front's financial, political, and military decisionmaking process.

### PFLP-GC's Naji Denies Split

*JN1501182490 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Jan 90 p 21*

[Text] Damascus—Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has denied a report published by Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD the day before yesterday about a split in the PFLP-GC.

Naji said: "The United States, which fights the PFLP-GC in every way, markets such rumors every now and then."

### 'Arafat Thanks Gorbachev on Upgrading PLO Mission

*JN1401173890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has sent a thank-you message to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and CPSU general secretary, following the Soviet Government's decision to upgrade diplomatic representation between the State of Palestine and the USSR. Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency Comrade President Gorbachev: Revolutionary greetings. Together with all nations that love freedom, justice, and peace, our Palestinian people have received with great satisfaction your decision, and that of the friendly Soviet Government, to upgrade diplomatic representation between the young State of Palestine and the USSR to embassy level. In the name of our Palestinian people, our brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my name, I would like to express to Your Excellency, and through you to your esteemed government, the friendly peoples of the USSR, and the great CPSU, our deepest gratitude and appreciation for this courageous decision, which embodies once again the firm and principled support of the friendly Soviet Union under your wise, dynamic, and brave leadership for our Palestinian people in their just struggle toward ending the Israeli occupation and establishing the independent Palestinian state.

Your decision and the exchange of ambassadors between our two states also reflect the strong bonds of friendship, solidarity, and constructive cooperation between us to serve our peoples march toward progress and prosperity, to enhance and push forward a just peace in the region, and to reinforce the foundations of peace and security both in the region and the world. In addition, this important political and diplomatic step reflects the principles of your policies, especially perestroyka; it emphasizes yet again the importance of the Palestinian peace initiative and highlights the effective world support for our people, who have been waging their intifadah for more than 2 years against Israeli occupation with a view to ending this occupation and establishing their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

We extend to you, dear brother president, our thanks, appreciation, and best wishes for good health and prosperity, and we wish the friendly Soviet peoples continued progress and prosperity. Our deepest thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for the great friend of the Palestinian people, Comrade Gorbachev. It is a revolution until victory.

### PLO Envoy Views Soviet Initiatives

*LD1201142490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1242 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] Moscow, Jan 12 (KUNA)—The ambassador of Palestine here Nabil 'Amr Friday said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat intends to send a message to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the Soviet decision to upgrade the Palestinian mission in Moscow to the status of an embassy.

In a press conference held at the Palestinian Embassy, 'Amr described the Soviet decision as an embodiment of the policy of balanced interest followed by the Soviet

Union which would encourage the PLO to continue its peaceful approach that is facing Israeli and American challenges.

'Amr said the balance in interests means that the right of Palestinian people to self determination and statehood equals that of the other side.

He added that the Soviet step is an important factor for facilitating the possibilities of peace in the Middle East on clear basis.

On the recent Soviet-Israeli contacts, he said they aim at convincing the parties concerned to sit at the negotiations table and to persuade the Israeli Government to react with the realistic initiative of the PLO.

He referred to the talks held here between Israeli Minister of Science 'Ezer Weizman and ranking Soviet officials in which the Israeli minister expressed belief that the PLO is the only side able to negotiate peace with Israel.

He added that Moscow is seriously seeking to implement the proposal of its foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze to sponsor a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in the Soviet Union despite the Israeli and American rejection to the idea which was approved by the PLO.

### Bal'awi Denounces U.S. Reaction

*JN1301211190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and ambassador of the State of Palestine in Tunis, has denounced the negative U.S. reaction to the Soviet Union's decision to upgrade the PLO's diplomatic representation in Moscow to the embassy level.

Brother Hakam Bal'awi said: The statements issued by the U.S. State Department in this regard contradict what the United States constantly declares about its serious endeavors to achieve peace—a peace that can only be achieved if the Palestinian people exercise their full rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Brother Hakam Bal'awi added that the U.S. reaction is seen as a flagrant intervention in an issue of sovereignty that only concerns the Soviet and Palestinian states; it is a violation of international laws and norms.

### Libya Reportedly 'Tightening Siege' on FRC

*JN1201154890 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 1*

[By 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Bar'uj]

[Text] Palestinian sources have said that Libya is tightening the siege on the Fatah-Revolutionary Council [FRC], which is led by Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal). The sources also said that the Libyan authorities have expelled the Abu-Nidal group from its offices in Suq al-Jum'ah in Tripoli and from its training camp in the adjacent area of al-Sawani.

The sources added that since the middle of last December, Abu-Nidal and his close aides have been placed under something like house arrest, and that they no longer enjoy the freedom of movement they had in the past.

The sources added that Abu-Nidal and his followers who are still in Tripoli no longer pose a threat to anyone. It is obvious that they can no longer carry out operations, the sources maintained.

In the past, the FRC launched attacks against PLO moderates and Jewish targets in Europe. Western intelligence departments say that the FRC was responsible for the attack on Rome and Vienna airports in 1985, the attack on a Jewish temple in Istanbul in 1986, and the hijack of an Egyptian airliner, forcing it to land in Malta in 1985. The U.S. State Department has described the FRC as "the world's most dangerous terrorist group."

The FRC's headquarters has been in Tripoli since 1987. Because the FRC's headquarters is there—which Libya has denied—the United States re-imposed trade and diplomatic sanctions on Libya last week.

Last October, two prominent members reneged on the FRC. They were 'Atif Abu-Bakr and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa. They accused Abu-Nidal of killing 156 of his followers during recent purges.

Some diplomats say that dissension inside FRC has encouraged Libyans to impose severer measures on Abu-Nidal's activities, whose group has not carried out an operation since the 1988 attack on the "City of Poros" in Greece. The diplomats added that despite all this Libya will not admit that it has tightened the siege on the FRC unless it receives clear indications that the U.S. is seeking normalization of relations.

Palestinian sources said that in spite of the siege imposed by Libyans on Abu-Nidal and his followers living in Libya, whose number may be less than 100, the FRC itself has not been totally exterminated yet. Moreover, one of the sources maintained that the FRC has other cells outside Libya, especially in Lebanon.

It is not clear yet whether the Libyans have transferred Abu-Nidal's privileges to the new dissident leaders, who declared a substitute interim command, which expressed readiness to cooperate with the PLO.

### 'Arafat Meets With Klibi in Tunis 11 Jan

*LD1201141490 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] Tunis, 12 Jan [TAP]—Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of Palestine, conferred yesterday, Thursday, in Tunis with Mr Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general.

WAFA, which reported the news, pointed out that the meeting discussed recent developments in the Palestinian issue and the need to consolidate Arab solidarity so as to strengthen the march of the intifadah.

WAFA added that they also stressed the importance of the recent Arab League Council meeting concerning current developments in Eastern Europe and consolidating relations between the Arab nation and the peoples of Eastern Europe.

The meeting was attended by Mr Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO representative in Tunis; and Mr Yasir 'abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

## Egypt

### Torture in Jails Last 4 Years Said 'Systematic'

*NC1401114490 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, Jan 14 (AFP)—The use of torture in Egyptian jails was systematic over the last four years, during the period in office of sacked Interior Minister Zaki Badr, the country's human rights group charged Sunday.

The Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR), in a report released here, condemned what it called the "spread and systematic use of torture in Egypt during 1989 and the last four years."

President Husni Mubarak on Friday sacked General Badr, a hardliner who served as interior minister since February 1986, replacing him with Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, who is believed to favour dialogue.

"All the channels of communication with the Egyptian authorities in the last four years were blocked," the EOHR said.

The report charged that prisoners were given "electric shocks on different parts of the body, notably the genitals," as well as being flogged and beaten.

Most of the victims were suspected members of outlawed Moslem fundamentalist groups, the report said, adding that two EOHR members were also tortured after being arrested last August at a workers' strike in Hulwan, south of Cairo.

Welcoming the appointment of a new interior minister, the human rights group called for the abolition of the state of emergency in force since the assassination in October 1981 of president Anwar Sadat.

### 'Savage Torture' Cited

*JN1501211090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Jan 90 pp 1, 2*

[By Hamdi Shafiq]

[Text] The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights [EOHR] yesterday urged President Husni Mubarak to abolish the emergency law and immediately release all political detainees and prisoners in Egypt. The organization also called for setting up a neutral committee to conduct a comprehensive and fair investigation into the savage torture practiced during the era of the tyrant, Zaki Badr, and to investigate all facts relating to the political, social, and legislative reasons that led to increasing human rights violations during the past 4 years.

The organization also stressed the need to refer immediately all those responsible for the crimes of torture and violating human rights to the criminal courts. The organization also asked President Mubarak to make a declaration on the government's adherence to the charters and principles of human rights and public liberties. It also asked him to issue orders to all those responsible for security to respect these rights, and to pledge that the government will not protect those who violate human rights, whoever they are.

Yesterday, the EOHR expressed the hope that the era of violating human rights will end with the fall of the former interior minister and the appointment of Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa as the new interior minister.

The EOHR denounced the large increase of human rights violations in Egypt during the past 4 years while Zaki Badr was interior minister. The organization asserted that the former minister closed all avenues of dialogue and ignored all appeals made by human rights organizations on the crimes committed by his ministry's apparatus against all groups of people, especially those suspected of opposing the government.

The EOHR announced that it is prepared to cooperate with the new interior minister, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, and all parties for the sake of upholding human rights in Egypt, which should come before all ideological considerations and political differences.

The EOHR's report on torture in Egypt during 1989, issued yesterday, gives detailed reports of the savage torture of political prisoners in jails, police stations, State Security centers in Cairo and al-Jizah, and in some security directorates. The report expressed EOHR's great concern about the spread of torture during the past year, to the point that it became a semi-daily, routine action during Zaki Badr's era. The report also reviews many torture practices documented in the attorney general's investigations, medical examiner's official reports, and statements made by victimized political prisoners, including some members of the EOHR's board of directors who were arrested and tortured during Zaki Badr's era.

### Former Interior Minister Bids Farewell to Staff

*NC1201205890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Former Interior Minister Zaki Badr went to the Interior Ministry as soon as he received the news that he had been relieved of his post at noon today. He met with the employees of his office and public relations officials, shook hands with them, and wished them success. He spent about an hour in the interior minister's office and then got in his car to go home. [passage omitted]

### New Interior Minister Views Task Ahead

*NC1201202090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1636 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today gave instructions to Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, the new interior minister. President Mubarak said it is necessary that proper legal procedures and the sovereignty of the law be respected by everyone, and noted that an atmosphere of peace and security would be favorable for

development efforts in the country. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi stated this when he spoke to journalists at the interior minister's office today.

The prime minister said that President Mubarak also underlined the need to respect the opinions of one's opponents and noted that opposition is a part of the system and that all the sons of Egypt, the majority and the opposition alike, are working for the benefit of the country.

Dr Sidqi said that opposition is part of the system and is appreciated. He also indicated that the government always listens to its opponents in the interest of the public and out of concern for its welfare

Dr Sidqi stated that President Mubarak always underlines this fact in his speeches and remarks. In its statements before the People's Assembly the government has also vowed to respect the opposition's opinions, Sidqi said.

The prime minister noted that the multi-party system was introduced into the Egyptian Constitution in 1971 in order to allow the opposition to assert its presence in a constitutional framework within which we all can work. Those who wish to overthrow the system are acting against legitimacy and cannot be viewed as opposition, for they do not understand the true meaning of opposition, he asserted.

Dr Sidqi noted that the purpose of the change in the Interior Ministry is above all to benefit the country. People come and go, he said, but the interests of the country remain supreme.

For his part, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, the new interior minister, said that the change of minister does not mean a change in the ministry's policy. The Interior Ministry, he said, is committed to the sovereignty of the law and the protection of legitimacy. He asserted that the Interior Ministry has an unshifting policy that is part of the government's overall policy.

In his first public remarks as interior minister, Musa said that President Husni Mubarak has instructed him on the need to respect the views of the opposition, to uphold the law, and serve the citizens.

Asked for his views concerning the opposition, the interior minister said that we all should work for the good of the country. The minister noted that the law applies to everyone. He added that extremism is against the law and extremists are answerable to the law.

Asked about his position on the policy of dialogue, Musa said: My great devotion to this country and its interests only makes me vow that any violation of legitimacy or transgression against the law will be dealt with. I am a career law enforcement officer, he said, and I assure you that we will not give in to excesses carried out in the name of differences of opinion. Even the opposition should have respect for the law, for Egypt belongs to all of us, he declared.

The interior minister said that his ministry will seek to make it possible for every citizen to enjoy a feeling of security and safety. He noted that security should be measured by the degree of personal safety felt by the public. If we can provide the public with that feeling of security while at the same time upholding the law, then our mission will be successful, he asserted.

Concerning his opinion on the current security situation in Egypt, Musa said that Egypt is blessed with stability and tranquillity with regard to political security. As for the fight against crime, the minister noted that crime is a natural phenomenon in any society and that the success of the police forces should be measured in terms of how they control this phenomenon. We seek to protect society from crime and prevent crime before it takes place, he stated.

Asked if any detainees will be freed in the coming phase, the interior minister said that such measures are taken at the appropriate time and in accordance with the government's general policy.

### Biography of New Minister

*NC1201142090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Following is the text of the republican decree:

The President of the Republic,

Having taken cognizance of the Constitution and of Presidential Decree 438 for the year 1987 concerning the formation of the cabinet, has decided the following:

Article 1. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa is to be appointed interior minister. [no other articles as received]

The new interior minister was born in Quwaysina in al-Minufiyah Governorate on 25 November 1930. He graduated from the Police Academy in 1945 and received a degree in police and legal studies. He was head of the Taxation and Fees General Investigation Department from 1976 to 1983. In 1987, he became head of the Public Security Department and in October of the same year he was appointed governor of Asyut, a position which he held until today. Musa is married and has three children.

The new interior minister has participated in several international conferences. He was decorated with the Medal of Merit in 1957, the Medal of the Republic in 1985, and the Medal of the Republic of the First Order in 1989.

## 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo for Second Visit in Week

*NC1301092190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning for a visit expected to last several days.

This is 'Arafat's second visit to Cairo in a week. He left Cairo the day before yesterday, on 11 January.

The Palestinian president was received at the airport by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs. On hand to receive him were also a number of Palestinian officials, including PLO Executive Committee members Jamal al-Surani and Muhammad Milhim, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah's Cairo representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

During this visit President 'Arafat is scheduled to attend the ceremony tonight to honor the Palestinian revolution's writers, poets, and artists and will award them medals and certificates. The ceremony will be part of the Palestine days' cultural and artistic festival now being held in Cairo, which will end on Tuesday.

President 'Arafat is accompanied by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and his media adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif.

### Confers With Mubarak

*NC1401124990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1041 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held talks for 1 and ½ hours with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential palace in Heliopolis this morning.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr Mustafa al-Fiqi, the president's information secretary, attended the talks on the Egyptian side. The Palestinian delegation included PLO Executive Committee Members Jamal al-Surani and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah Representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

### Send Joint Document to U.S.

*TA1401111890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Jan 90 p 1, 4*

[By Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo yesterday for a meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak, the second in a week. The two men will discuss recent developments regarding the Baker plan, and sources in the territories reported 'Arafat and Mubarak now are preparing a five-point document that will be dispatched to Washington during Defense Minister Rabin's visit. The main part of the document espouses the Palestinians' insistence on the PLO's right to nominate, as well as announce, the members of the Palestinian delegation, but it shows flexibility on all matters related to the agenda of the negotiations.

The five points stipulated in the document are:

—1) The PLO stands by its right to nominate the members of the delegation and announce their names.

—2) Each side will be permitted to express its positions at the opening session of the talks. In later sessions, all parties will focus on the Shamir election plan.

—3) The basis for the talks will be UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338. The PLO emphasizes the fact Resolution No 242 also applies to the territories.

—4) The principle of territories for peace.

—5) The election plan is a departure point toward an international conference, which will lead to comprehensive peace settlements in the Middle East.

Palestinian sources in the territories who are close to the contacts taking place in Cairo told our correspondent the PLO also is asking whether the United States would be willing to declare Shamir the party responsible for the failure of the Baker initiative, and whether the United States would agree to an international conference after the Baker plan proves unsuccessful. Our correspondent points out this document may include the first PLO acceptance of the Baker plan. Until now, the PLO has implied such an acceptance, but has not explicitly endorsed the plan.

### 'Arafat Leaves Cairo 14 Jan

*NC1401185490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1821 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening.

'Arafat arrived here yesterday, Saturday, and was recieved by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning, with whom he held a round of talks. 'Arafat conferred twice today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

### VOL Says Mubarak, Al-Asad To Meet 16 Jan

*NC1301085090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] The pro-Syrian newspaper AL-SHARQ reported today the planned summit meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will be held on 16 January.

### Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi View Developments by Phone

*NC1501213290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2003 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight.

The two leaders talked about developments in the Arab and international arenas and exchanged views on ways to bolster bilateral relations.

### Libyan Armed Forces Chief on 'Unannounced Visit'

*NC1501154590 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, Jan 15 (AFP)—Libya's Armed Forces chief, Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, arrived here Monday on an unannounced visit, airport sources said.

Egyptian officials declined to supply any details on the colonel's visit, which comes amid a gradual warming of ties between the two countries.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak have met twice since October to discuss bilateral cooperation but failed to announce a resumption of diplomatic relations.

Libya remains the only Arab state that maintains no diplomatic ties with Egypt to protest Cairo's 1979 peace treaty with Israel. Syria re-establised relations last month.

### 'Abd-al-Majid Departs for Washington 16 Jan

*NC1601064890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Jan 90*

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Washington today for talks with senior U.S. officials on important international developments and Egyptian-U.S. relations. He and the delegation accompanying him will also hold talks with senior IMF officials on Egypt's economic reforms.

'Abd-al-Majid stated that President Mubarak gave him a message for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the peace efforts in the Middle East.

## Libya

### Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Hold Phone Conversation

*LD1601064990 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 16 Jan 90*

[Text] Telephone contact was made yesterday evening between the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

### Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 14 Jan

*LD1501042390 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli tonight, Sunday, on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was met at Tripoli International Airport by the brother secretary and brother assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary for Vocational Congress Affairs, the secretary of the People's Committee at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, and the ambassador and staff of the embassy of Palestine in the Great Jamahiriyah.

### Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

*LD1501143190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

### Concludes Visit 15 Jan

*LD1501232490 Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli at noon today at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

## Sudan

### Government Condemns U.S. Measures Against Libya

*EA1501114890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0928 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jan (SUNA)— Sudan Government and people condemn the recent statements by the American administration and the economic measures it announced against the sister state of Jamahiriyah, a statement issued here by the minister of foreign affairs said yesterday. Being adherent to the common destiny and brotherhood, Sudan stands beside the Libyan people in its historical struggle for liberty and independence, the statement said.

"The sun of the conflicting ideologies has set after the unexpected downfall of the communist rule in Eastern Europe," the statement read. We have being waiting for the reconciliation to help in relaxation of disputes worldwide, it added.

Abiding by the international consensus, Sudan announced its condemnation to the U.S. Administration's statements and economic procedures against Libya, the statement said, urging the administration to reconsider its stance.

### Further on Condemnation

*EA1501172390 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement: We have been optimistically observing the spirit of harmony permeating interstate relations of late, which have served to remove East-West barriers, the waning of conflicting idelogies, and the end of the cold war. This follows the sudden collapse of the institutions of communist rule in Eastern Europe, thus introducing an ideal climate for worldwide peace. Hopes were raised that this harmony would contribute toward reducing tension, ending wars, and easing the suffering caused by internecine fighting. Many of these hopes have been realized.

Sudan has adhered firmly to its policies. It has not flouted the international consensus. We accordingly condemned interference in the affairs of states and rejected all forms of blackmail. In this respect, the government and people of Sudan condemn the U.S. Administration's recent pronouncements and its declared economic measures against the sisterly Jamahiriyyah. These pronouncements have frustrated all our expectations and cast a shadow over all the hopes we had for the spirit of harmony and reconciliation. Indeed, unity of destiny and fraternity compel us to support our brothers in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah [SPLAJ] and the Libyan people, who have struggled throughout their long history for liberty and independence and now are struggling to free themselves from all forms of domination and from being held hostage.

The whole world is aspiring to brotherhood and cooperation. Today, in the second half of the 20th century, battlefields have been transformed into gardens of peace. Collaboration has transcended the barriers of controversy, and the East-West confrontation has turned into a fruitful dialogue between the northern and southern parts of the planet—a dialogue between the rich and the poor countries to enable them all to rise up together in strength against (?hunger), poverty, and disease. This hope remains cradled in our hearts, and we anticipate its realization.

We therefore earnestly appeal to the U.S. Administration to retract its recent resolution to persist with economic measures against the fraternal people to the SPLAJ. We also reaffirm our solidarity with and support for the brothers in the SPLAJ. We announce we already have conveyed this stance to them, and we have informed our Arab brothers accordingly through the Arab League.

We still are confident in today's world, the wisdom of reason will prevail over the emotion of aggression. Long live international unity! Long live the eternally unfurled banners of peace! God is great! Glory to Sudan!

## SPLA Says Rebels Captured Kaia Garrison

*EA1501165290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] The vitally strategic garrison town of Kaia fell to the gallant forces of the "Bright Star" campaign yesterday, Sunday, 14 January 1990, at 1500 Sudan local time [1300 GMT] after 2 days of heavy fighting. Kaia falls on the Sudan-Uganda-Zaire border. Immediately after the capture of Kaia, the "Bright Star" campaign forces also overran two other outposts of (Kaia-Kimba) and 38 Mile or Thamaniyyah Wa Thalathin.

A great deal of military and other equipment was abandoned by the fleeing enemy. Fifty-two enemy soldiers were killed and remnants fled into Zaire, and SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] could not pursue them out of respect for international borders. Enemy armaments captured include APC's, ZU-37 general purpose heavy machineguns, 12.7-mm general purpose heavy machineguns, heavy mortars, Nellie trucks, and small cars. Stock-taking continues.

Most of the enemy soldiers who got killed in Kaia or who fled to Zaire are from the convoy of Brigadier Isaiah Paul, the so-called Quwwat Labbayka al-Sudan. This is the second time Brig Isaiah Paul's forces have been dispersed. Brig Isaiah himself had deserted the Kaia forces, as was announced by radio SPLA. He is now surrounded with the remnants left with him.

The fall of Kaia comes only 8 days after the fall of Kajo Kaji. It is to be recalled that the "Bright Star" campaign had given a strong warning to Kaia and other garrisons in Western Equatoria. SPLA has made good of its words. When the SPLA speaks it means what it says. We are committed to telling the Sudanese people the truth, even regarding military operations, which the junta described yesterday as secret.

The "Bright Star" campaign commander here repeats the same warning to all garrisons in Western Equatoria to start talking with the SPLA and stop supporting 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir's National Islamic Front Program. [martial music].

In a related development, the official spokesman of the SPLA warned the convoys moving from Malakal and from Wau to nowhere that they will be destroyed, like Labbayka al-Sudan of Isaiah Paul. SPLA is monitoring the movement of these convoys, and we know the killing ground where these convoys will be destroyed. [martial music].

In a message to Radio SPLA, the chairman and commander in chief has sent millions of congratulations to the "Bright Star" campaign commander, officers, NCO's and men of the "Bright Star" campaign for their magnificent and strategic victory over the junta's forces in Kajo Kaji, Kaia, Kimba, and Thamaniyyah Wa Thalathin.

Within 8 days, "Bright Star" campaign overran four garrisons. Continue on comrades, the struggle continues! [martial music].

## Officials Say Army Controls Southern Kurdufan

*EA1301183690 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Khartoum 13 Jan (SUNA)—The government today denied the movement's [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] claim it controls the Juba-Yei road. 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, minister of culture and information and the official government spokesman, told SUNA the Juba-Yei road was open for transport and the Armed Forces control the situation there. His excellency pointed out the claims by the movement are lies.

Meanwhile, his excellency denied the fall of any garrison of the Armed Forces in southern Kurdufan. He said the Armed Forces were in full control there and were discharging their duties in defending the territory of the homeland.

## Turkey Asked To Ease Euphrates Cutoff Period

*JN1401094090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Baghdad AL-THAWRAH urges Turkey to shorten the water cutoff period to 10 days, rather than 30 days or a maximum of 2 weeks. The paper also urges Turkey to increase the quantities of water released during the filling period. It asks the Turkish side to expedite efforts to reach a final agreement between Iraq, Syria, and Turkey on sharing the Euphrates waters.

This was stated in the paper's editorial for today. The paper adds: Turkey is a neighboring country linked to Iraq by strong, historic ties. Iraq and Turkey currently are linked by strong ties in various spheres; and these firm bilateral ties have brought numerous common benefits that augur well for the development of a stronger, more rewarding relationship. These strong bilateral ties have been forged thanks to the wise policies pursued by the two countries, policies based on principles of neighborliness, consultations on various issues, and ongoing contacts to consolidate these ties and remove any obstacles that might stand in their way. Enhanced bilateral economic ties are one of the most prominent manifestations of this cooperation. These enhanced ties also might be viewed as one of the most important results of this cooperation. The bilateral economic ties have developed, grown, and become so beneficially interwined that they now indicate further enhancement of these rewarding ties.

AL-THAWRAH adds: On various occasions, officials of the two countries stated their eagerness to maintain continuous, uninterrupted, and long-term cooperation between the two countries, as this would be the best reflection of ties based on neighborliness and permanent friendship. Besides, maintaining this cooperation also will help attain a steady development in bilateral ties, a development that will have a positive impact on ties between the two governments and peoples.

There are signs on the horizons, however, of this bilateral cooperation that might disturb this relationship or affect it negatively, unless these signs are tackled and dealt with wisely and prudently in a manner that will not undermine their divergent interests nor necessarily conflict with their common interests. The reference here is to the Euphrates waters.

This issue is not new to our bilateral relations. Recent developments in this issue, however, require a wise and immediate common endeavor; otherwise, Iraqi interests will be seriously harmed. We do not believe the Turkish side is seeking to inflict this harm on Iraqi interests.

The paper goes on to say: As is well known, the Euphrates is one of two rivers irrigating Iraqi soil. It is a highly significant and vital lifeline for Iraq's economic life. This river originates in Turkish territory and goes through Syrian territory before it enters Iraq. This is what makes the three countries parties having a vested interested in using the Euphrates. These interests might diverge or conflict. The interests of these countries, or of some of them, might be harmed if the rights of all parties are not secured, as it is the right of each of the three to benefit from the Euphrates and build irrigation dams on it—provided no grave harm is inflicted on the two other parties. Efforts must be made, therefore, to negotiate and conduct consultations on sharing the waters of this river, which God has bestowed on the three countries.

The paper says: Negotiations on sharing this river began in 1962. These negotiations, however, produced no results due to reasons that have nothing to do with Iraq. During the past period, Turkey began to construct the Keban dam while Syria began building the al-Tabaqah dam. Turkey and Syria then began filling these two dams in 1973-75, thus inflicting grave harm on Iraq due to the small quantity of water that reached Iraqi territory during this period. The annual rate of water flow reaching Iraqi territory before completion of the Keban and al-Tabaqah dams was approximately 28 billion cubic meters. This rate, however, declined, during the period needed for filling these two dams, to levels that reached rock-bottom; that is, 9 billion cubic meters. This inflicted excessive harm on Iraq. As for the post-filling period, the annual rate of the water supply reaching Iraq increased. This rate, however, never has reached its previous levels. It has continued to fluctuate between 20 and 24 billion cubic meters; that is, 4-8 billion cubic meters less than than the previous rate.

AL-THAWRAH adds: In 1980, Iraq and Turkey signed a protocol in Ankara on the heels of a meeting conducted by the prime ministers of the two countries. This protocol provided for forming a joint technical committee tasked with preparing a technical report to be submitted to the two governments. According to this protocol, this report should have specified the proper and reasonable quantities of water needed by the two countries.

The protocol also stipulated the committee should complete its report within 2 years, and that a 1-year extension of this period would be allowed. This committee, however, only met in 1982. In 1983, the Syrian side approved this protocol and joined the negotiations. Since then, the joint technical committee comprising the three countries has conducted 14 meetings. This committee, however, thus far has failed to complete its report. Its work has been confined to exchanging information, due to reasons that mostly have to do with Turkey.

The paper goes on to say: During this wasted time, Turkey began building a new dam called the Qara Qaya dam, completed in 1986. In 1983, it began building another, the Ataturk dam, which Turkey yesterday, 13 January, began to fill. The filling of this dam as envisaged by Turkey inflicts immense harm on Iraq.

On 20 November 1989, Turkey informed Iraq it would cut off large quantities of the Euphrates flow for 30 days

to fill the Ataturk dam. It also said that during the 50-day period preceding the fixed date for beginning the filling operation, it would release water supplies from the Keban and Qara Qaya dams totaling 750 cubic meters per second, instead of the previous rate of 500 cubic meters per second. This would allow both Iraq and Syria to have water reserves at their disposal during the cutoff period in which the flow would drop to 120 cubic meters per second coming through the Euphrates tributaries located in the area from behind the Ataturk dam site to the Syrian-Turkish border.

AL-THAWRAH says: A technical Iraqi delegation led by the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry then visited Turkey on 16 December 1989. This delegation conducted detailed, in-depth talks with the Turkish side. The Iraqi delegation paid a field visit to the site of the Ataturk dam and its installations. During this visit, the Iraqi delegation furnished the Turkish side with sensible and indisputable scientific evidence showing that curtailing the Euphrates water cutoff period to 10 days or 2 weeks instead of 30 days would, technically speaking, meet filling purposes and avert any harm to the Turkish side on the one hand and ameliorate the effect of harm resulting from a prolonged water cutoff period on the other. The Turkish side expressed willingness to discuss the Iraqi argument at the time. It failed, however, to commit itself to act according to this argument. This gave the Iraqi delegation the impression a reconsideration of the water cutoff period might require a political decision.

The paper adds: The continued water cutoff for 30 days will inflict unmistakable harm on Iraq, particularly considering Iraq cannot benefit from the water supply released before the beginning of the cutoff period, simply because the storage capacity of the al-Qadisiyah dam has been exhausted. The low water level in the Euphrates between the Iraqi-Syrian borders and the al-Qadisiyah dam, moreover, is a problem that cannot be overcome because of the lack of any dams in this area.

What is more alarming is the grave situation posed by the Ataturk dam issue is not confined to this water cutoff period. No, the seriousness of the issue also is related to the entire filling period, which might be 4 to 5 years if the rainfall rate is above average. If this rate were to be lower, however, the filling period might go on for 8 years. During this period, the amount of water released by the Turkish side will decline considerably; and consequently the amount of water entering Iraqi territory also will decline.

In July 1987, Turgut Ozal, then Turkish prime minister and now Turkish president, paid an official visit to Damascus. During the visit, a Syrian-Turkish agreement was signed in which the Turkish side promised to release 500 cubic meters of water per second during the filling period. Since Iraq and Syria temporarily have agreed to divide the water between them during the filling period—and until a tripartite agreement is reached—based on 58 percent for Iraq and 48 percent for Syria, the amount of water reaching Iraq during the filling period only will be around 9 billion cubic meters, less than half of Iraq's current requirements.

What harm could be done to Iraq? It means with the loss of each billion of square meters of water, Iraq will lose 260,000 dunams of agricultural land. When the high-salinity water from al-Tharthar dam is added, 40 percent of the agricultural land in the Euphrates Basin, or 1.3 million dunams, will be put outside agricultural investments. The water salinity, moreover, will greatly harm the industrial projects using this water and all projects providing drinking water to homes.

The al-Qadisiyah dam hydroelectric power station, moreover, will be affected as a result of the drop in water level and will completely cease operation in winter 1991. Four other hydroelectric power stations—three now operational and one under construction—also will be affected. The amount of harm done to Iraqi power generation will be understood if we realize 40 percent of Iraq's electric power needs are generated in the Euphrates Basin.

To give a more accurate account of the harm that will be done to Iraq, we note the Euphrates Basin includes 7 of the Iraqi governorates centers, 25 districts, 58 subdistricts, and about 4,000 villages inhabited by 5.5 million people. All of them will be affected by the reduction in Euphrates water flow.

The immense dangers of the water cutoff thus is very obvious and therefore, we rely on the Turkish side's wisdom, understanding, and anticipated concern not to harm Iraq, given the Turkish side's desire during the past years to develop the existing strong ties between the two countries.

In view of all this, we appeal to the Turkish side to:
1. Shorten the water reduction period from 30 days to 10 days, or a maxiumum period of 2 weeks, a period which, according to our reliable information, will not harm the Turkish side,
2. Increase substantially the amount of water the Turkish side will release during the filling period, and
3. Speed efforts to reach a final tripartite agreement among Iraq, Syria, and Turkey to share the Euphrates, and show enough flexibility in order to preserve the legitimate interests of the three countries and affirm the principles of neighborliness and the requirements of joint cooperation.

Again we say we will depend on the Turkish side's wisdom and understanding, and we are waiting.

## Special Envoy, Delegation Depart for Turkey

*JN1401113790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, oil minister and personal representative of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Turkish President Turgut Ozal, left for Turkey at noon today.

In a statement to INA, the oil minister said he will convey a written message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to President Turgut Ozal on bilateral ties.

The oil minister added he will discuss with Turkish officials a number of issues of common interest—issues pertaining to bilateral relations, especially regarding Turkey's decision to cut off the Euphrates as part of its plan to fill the Ataturk dam.

The envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn stated we are sure the Turkish side does not seek to harm Iraq with these measures. Al-Jalabi added: The continued implementation of this plan, however, inevitably will have an adverse effect on a large number of Iraqis residing in the Euphrates Basin, not to mention the harm that will come to a number of our economic installations. We hope Turkey will cooperate with us to avert this damage.

Al-Jalabi noted Iraqi experts have formulated their substantive remarks on the Turkish plans and the possibility of amending them in a manner that would ameliorate the harm these plans will cause. He added: We hope we will discuss this issue with the Turkish side, particularly considering the fact that the historic ties existing between the two neighboring countries have developed during the years in the interests of both peoples. Our bilateral ties recently registered a remarkable development in the economic, cultural, technical, and commercial areas. Numerous agreements were signed by the two sides to organize and bolster these ties to safeguard our common interests.

It is to be recalled Oil Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi heads the Iraqi side to the Joint Iraqi-Turkish Committee.

The envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is accompanied by a technical delegation made up of the under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the head of the Second Political Department at the Foreign Ministry, and a number of specialists at the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

## PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 15 Jan

*JN1501192690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Baghdad today for a visit of several days.

### Forum of Four Agrees on Response to U.S.

*TA1601072090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Jan 90*

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The response Israel will give the United States differs slightly from the text worked out by the team that included Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein; Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office; and Salay Meridor, the foreign minister's political adviser. The changes that have been introduced were inserted at the request of Peres and Rabin, the Alignment ministers in the forum of four. The Alignment ministers believe these comments realign the letter with the spirit of the Inner Cabinet resolutions.

The main point in the response is the request for amendments to the U.S. document of assurances that was transmitted via Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein.

The forum of four, which met 1 week ago, decided, at the request of Minister Peres, not to relay the response to Washington for the moment. In the past few days, Peres, Shamir, and Arens have agreed on the formulation of the response that will be given, and Minister Rabin has accepted it.

Beyond the very minor alterations introduced, there also is a matter of principle: Israel will make it clear to the United States the request for amendments to the assurances does not reflect a consensus among the Cabinet ministers. This means the Alignment has conceded to let the Likud seek better terms, but is making it clear to the United States it was not the Alignment that sought these changes.

The Israeli response will be transmitted to the United States within the next few days.

One thing still remains a puzzle after the agreement on the response: In the Inner Cabinet session last Wednesday, Prime Minister Shamir promised Deputy Prime Minister David Levi no response would be given to the Americans before the Inner Cabinet discusses the issue and reaches a decision. Here, however, we see the forum of four—or in fact, a group of three—already has reached a decision, and the response will be dispatched soon, bypassing the Inner Cabinet.

### Egypt Role Prompts 'Alternatives' to Baker Plan

*TA1401064890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The U.S. signals continue to be as clear as day: Secretary Baker is running out of patience. These messages are being transmitted to both parties. Meanwhile, political sources have said the existence of contingency plans in the Foreign Ministry results from Egypt's recent position about the process. They contend that for several weeks, since it submitted its response to the five-point plan, Cairo has changed from being an active side in the negotiations to being a PLO courier. The Egyptians are doing exactly what they promised to avoid doing and have become a channel for message transmittals, thereby forsaking the role of a side with its own position in the negotiations.

Because the political sources have pointed an accusing finger at Egypt for creating the political stalemate, the notion of alternatives also has come to the fore. The Foreign Ministry apparently has a number of contingency plans—all alternatives to Secretary Baker's five-point plan. The plans will be pulled out of the drawers if, within a set period of time, the tripartite meeting does not take place, and the Baker plan is bogged down. At that point, the sources emphasize, we will be able to revert to the method we employed before: meetings and independent moves in Israel to promote the election idea. The reference is to attempts made prior to the birth of the Israeli-Palestinian meeting idea to promote conducting elections through direct contacts with Palestinian elements in the territories.

Incidentally, the discussion of the assurances Israel is seeking from the United States will continue on the professional level.

### Elections May Proceed If Baker Plan Fails

*JN1401085590 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem last night stated Israel might decide to conduct elections in the areas as a unilateral step if no progress is made on the political front through the Baker plan.

The sources added in this case, the Foreign Ministry will initiate a plan it formulated based on rejection of the Baker plan at that time. They said the cause of the current stalemate is the position adopted by Egypt a few weeks ago, when it became a courier conveying the PLO's position, instead of adopting an independent stance in the political negotiations.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, yesterday evening attacked the Israeli plan, which talks about unilaterally conducting elections in the areas in case the Baker plan fails.

Meanwhile, Yasir 'Arafat today will continue his talks in Cairo with senior Egyptian officials on developments concerning political developments. It is expected 'Arafat will meet today with President Mubarak following a second meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

### 'Secret' Meeting With GDR in 'Next Few Days'

*TA1501075590 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jan 90 p A1*

[By Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Ministry representatives in the next few days will be meeting with GDR officials in one of the West European capitals.

The GDR Government a few days ago approached the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and suggested conducting a secret meeting between foreign ministry officials from both countries.

The East Germans suggested conducting the meeting—the first of its kind—in a neutral country to discuss all issues under dispute that impede establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Senior Jerusalem officials have warned Israel will not establish diplomatic relations with the GDR as long as it does not recognize its responsibility for the holocaust.

The GDP. foreign minister said about 2 weeks ago his country now recognizes its responsibility for the holocaust. That was an additional feeler from the GDR, which was followed by the call to conduct the secret meeting.

Israel considers the GDR one of the most important countries in East Europe and seriously views the signals emanating from there about the possibility of a thaw in relations.

Jerusalem, however, still is very sensitive about everything linked to that country because of the holocaust.

### GDR Asked for 'Full' Ties in 'Official' Meeting

*TA1601090090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 90 p 1*

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] East Germany formally asked Israel to establish full diplomatic relations during an official meeting between the two countries earlier this month at the Israeli Embassy in Brussels, sources close to the East German government have informed THE JERUSALEM POST.

The sources said a half-hour meeting took place on January 4 between the East German ambassador to Belgium, Ernst Walkowski, and the Israeli ambassador to the European Community and Belgium, Avi Primor.

It is expected that the two countries will hold a second meeting within a week in Europe. East Germany is likely to consult Israel about a statement that it intends to make on the responsibility that all Germans share for the Holocaust.

Israel has made it clear that before diplomatic ties can be established, the East Germans must officially admit some measure of responsibility for the Holocaust, and must show a willingness to pay reparations to victims, as the West Germans have done. In the past, East Germany said it bore no responsibility because communists were themselves persecuted by the Nazis.

Walkowski informed Primor that either Prime Minister Hans Modrow or Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer will be issuing a statement shortly.

A statement is expected around the end of this month, coinciding with the 45th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

East Germany is also due to affirm in principle its commitment to pay reparations, the sources said. In practice, however, East Germany's ailing economy precludes payment at this time, and it remains unclear if a timetable for reparations has or is being set, the sources said.

Last spring, Fischer mentioned $500 million as the sum his country would consider paying to Holocaust survivors, but the amount was not finalized. Fischer is still foreign minister under the new regime that overthrew Erich Honecker last fall. However, the convulsions surrounding the new government put the reparations figure in doubt, the sources said.

### USSR's Tarasov To Visit Israel in 'Near Future'

*TA1501074390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 90 p 1*

[By political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Gennadiy Tarasov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry Middle East expert, will come to Israel soon as part of his shuttle mission to the region. This apparently was the outcome of Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman's talk with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

During their meeting Shevardnadze said Israel should exploit the opportunity to achieve a Middle East peace settlement before things take a turn for the worse, such as the strengthening of Arab radical elements. Weizman responded the USSR can make a contribution if it immediately renews relations with Israel, rather than continuing its present slow, step-by-step policy. Shevardnadze said the idea was acceptable to him and pointed to Tarasov, saying he is about to send "our foreign minister for Middle East affairs" to the region.

Shevardnadze also clearly said that within the framework of his upcoming Middle East tour, Tarasov also would visit Israel.

Replying to Weizman's question on when the visit would take place, the Soviet foreign minister said it depended on Tarasov's schedule, but hinted it would take place in the near future.

### IDF Officers Urge Caution in Aid to Ethiopia

*TA1501080690 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jan 90 p A2*

[By 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers visited Ethiopia several weeks ago to study Addis Ababa's

requests for military aid. Western sources report the delegation, which has returned from Ethiopia, is recommending the wide-ranging Ethiopian requests be studied carefully, and that Israel should wait until the stability of the Addis Ababa government, which is under constant attack from rebel forces, becomes clear.

At the same time, U.S. sources reported the United States made clear to Israel it does not support Israeli aid to Mengistu's regime, which is considered loathesome, and the U.S. veto also is being taken into account.

### Jordanian Soldier Said Attacker of 2 on Border

*TA1401111690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Two members of Kibbutz Gerofit in the 'Arava today were targets for shots from Jordanian territory. No one was hurt. Our army affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe, reports the two came to work at the kibbutz' mango plantation this morning, when suddenly a man wearing a dark uniform—apparently a Jordanian soldier—shot at them. One of the workers on the plantation returned fire with his revolver, and the assailant fled.

Local residents reported Jordanian activity could be observed on the other side of the border after the incident. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] also searched the area.

### Two Suspended for Role in Incident Shown by ABC

*TA1401163990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] The Central Command's military tribunal ordered reserves officer Lieutenant David Li'or to be kept in a military detention facility for 45 days after convicting him of mistreating a prisoner from Janin. The officer, who also was demoted to sergeant, pleaded guilty to the charges.

The commander of the Central Command and the commander of the Border Police decided to suspend two border policemen, who will face trial, for inaccurately reporting an incident. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the decision was taken following an incident in the Bethlehem area 2 weeks ago, in which an Arab was wounded and later died. ABC News filmed the incident, and the film proved the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] report was incorrect.

### King Says Israel Using Clashes To Create Tension

*JN1601074290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jan 90 p 1*

[By Fayruz Mubayyidin]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has affirmed the aggressions recently perpetrated by Israeli troops against Jordanian positions are attempts to create a tense atmosphere, particularly at this time.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, his majesty the king added there are purposes and objectives that go beyond the scope of limited operations. His majesty the king indicated more than one party might be behind these operations.

His majesty the king said: As is well known, we stand on the longest line of confrontation. A new situation has occurred. Of course, we investigate every incident and attempt to know exactly its significance.

### Al-Qasim, Qaddumi on Talks, Unilateral Elections

*JN1301170490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1442 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Amman, 13 Jan (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised the outcome of talks conducted by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, with senior Jordanian officials during his visit, which he concluded today.

In statements to the press before bidding farewell to Qaddumi, Al-Qasim said: The visit was an opportunity to continue the process of coordination with the PLO.

He pointed out Jordan's position was clear from the very beginning and that steps taken by the PLO since November 1988 are very positive, clear, and earnest, aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said: From this premise, Jordan fully supports the PLO, and the PLO's position also enjoys full Arab support.

Al-Qasim added: As usual, and in an atmosphere filled with frankness and trust, we discussed many topics and issues with our brothers in the PLO along the path of building more coordination and cooperation to obtain new positive gains for the PLO and to add to gains achieved on the level of Israeli society and on the Arab and international levels.

Answering a question on the new Soviet initiative to host a face-to-face Iranian-Iraqi dialogue, Al-Qasim said: As is well known, and since the beginning of the Iranian aggression, fraternal Iraq has been eager for an understanding based on international legitimacy and mutual respect for the clear rights of both countries. Iraq always has been responsive to any initiative seeking to achieve that end. For example, Iraq proposed many initiatives to achieve a just and permanent peace between the two countries, and Iran failed to make any positive response to these initiatives. Then came [UN Security Council] Resolution No 598, which Iraq accepted immediately and which Iran took almost a year to accept. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn recently raised a new peace initiative based on direct talks. This new initiative, however, also was rejected by the Iranians.

Al-Qasim added: We recently were very pleased to see the Soviet Union continuing its peace efforts, which culminated in Iraq's and Iran's agreement to meet in the Soviet Union.

Al-Qasim expressed the hope this initiative will constitute a positive beginning to complement the Iraqi initiatives. He said: When the initiative was accepted, we found ourselves with a good opportunity in the region. We hope Iran will respond to it in a manner leading to an end to the status quo existing between the two countries, in harmony with the atmosphere of openness and cooperation the world is witnessing these days.

Faruq Qaddumi said his talks with Jordanian officials were positive, constructive, and comprehensive. He said: On conclusion of this visit, I am pleased to express my thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, for the talks we conducted during this visit and for their positive outcome, especially since these talks were conducted with understanding and cordiality, with a responsive Jordanian side. These talks—which were among brothers—dealt with many joint issues concerning Jordan and Palestine.

Answering a question about Israel's plans to conduct unilateral elections in the occupied territories, Qaddumi said: We have heard about many such plans. Israel conducted municipal elections in 1976 which resulted, as is well known, in the assassination and detention of the elected mayors, although the conditions prevailing then were different and peaceful compared to the current phase, when the intifadah is blazing.

Qaddumi added: The Israelis still have the illusion they can calm the intifadah through devious methods. The intifadah will continue until the Israeli occupation is terminated and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are achieved.

Qaddumi pointed out the world acknowledges the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, but the intransigent and fanatical Sharon and Shamir have not yet understood the developments on the Palestinian and international arenas.

Asked about Sharon's new-old statements concerning Israeli illusions and the so-called "alternative homeland," Qaddumi said: Sharon is a terrorist. His statements were condemned and denounced by various political circles, including those considered friends of Israel.

Qaddumi asserted Sharon's statements are falsehoods which no one would accept. He added: Despite the fact

we are very cautious about these statements, almost the whole world recognizes the place of the state of Palestine is in Palestine.

Within this context, he referred to the resolutions issued by the United Nations and the UN Security Council concerning Palestinian rights in Palestine and the constant denunciation of Israeli statements and measures.

Asked whether time works against the PLO, Qaddumi replied: On the contrary, time works in our favor. The time has gone when Israel can claim it is strategically important to the United States and the Western world to confront communism, protect the Suez Canal or the oil supplies. In light of the current international developments and the new realities created by the Palestinian people's valiant intifadah, time works in the PLO's favor and against Israel.

### Ministry in Charge of Censorship To Be Abolished

*JN1301131090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian Government is studying abolition of the Ministry of Information, which controls the national media organs, and replacing it with an information authority in line with the democratic process the country is undergoing. Our radio has learned from an authoritative source this cancellation will occur during the first cabinet reshuffle Prime Minister Mudar Badran may conduct next month.

Based on this policy, the Jordanian Television and Radio Corporation, which currently is part of the Information Ministry, will become an independent national institution run by an appointed board of directors. This institution thus will lose its official status as the spokesman of the government's viewpoint and will open the door to various viewpoints and trends.

Regarding the official news agency PETRA, which currently is affiliated with the Information Ministry, it will become a private institution in which the government can participate, alongside the Jordanian newspapers.

Under these changes, the section in charge of censorship of newspapers, curently affiliated with the Information Ministry, also is expected to be abolished. As for the censorship of nonpolitical publications, which usually deals with literary and moral affairs, it will become the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.

### Measures Urged To Halt Influx of West Bankers

*JN1301121590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jan 90 p 18*

["Frankly Speaking" column by Sultan al-Hattab: "The Open-Bridge Policy: The Red and Green Lights"]

[Excerpts] The open-bridge policy has had many positive results from 1967 up to now. Despite all intermittent attacks, criticisms, and negative remarks against this policy by various quarters, the experience, awareness, application, and true interests always have proved the fallacy of these accusations, which later were withdrawn and apologized for by their makers.

It is true the open-bridge policy has some side effects the enemy tried to use or portray as the rule, and through which the enemy tried to formulate its concepts of normalization, but Jordan's ability in following and understanding all developments have foiled many schemes designed by the occupation. This was possible thanks to the awareness and sense of responsibility of the Palestinian people and to the accommodation of all steps and measures occasionally taken. This helped Jordan become the window of the intifadah, and the Jordanian dinar its financier. [passage omitted]

But for the open-bridge policy to continue serving the Palestinian cause, certain measures must be taken, and these should declare themselves through action and implementation. Perhaps the most prominent of these is the government's intention to facilitate moving West Bank and Gaza products to the Jordanian market and other Arab and international markets to preserve the Palestinian national economy against occupation and maintain the kinfolk's steadfastness against the policy of oppression and deportation.

But to prevent the enemy from injecting its poison into this process, we must, through awareness and decisive and clear measures, differentiate between opening the bridges to keep the economic veins alive and opening them to fulfill the enemy's desire to uproot and deport the Palestinians and drive them to emigrate or seek work outside the land of Palestine.

Hence, attention should be paid—for strategic, national, and pan-Arab reasons in the interests of the Palestine question and Jordan—to standing firmly against the desire by any Palestinian citizen to reside in Jordan after the decision to disengage ties with the West Bank, taken on 31 July 1988. The media should promote awareness regarding this issue; they should discuss it, and explain all its aspects.

There is no harm for some people to move when necessary; there is no harm in visits; and there is no harm in examining carefully the nature of the travel. But all this should be made clearly and knowledgeably so no one—whether an enemy, opportunist, or intolerant person—can take any measure as a point against the clean decision of disengagement.

It follows that those who came to visit and failed to return, hoping to stay, should not be allowed to stay. Nor should there be silence over the large numbers of people who came but failed to return. The issue is not pertinent to one person or two, to a family, or confined to a humanitarian case. It concerns a national issue, and we all must realize the extent of Zionist schemes against this issue, especially in light of the recent enemy plans to bring about 1 million Jews from Eastern Europe and

other parts of the world to settle them in Palestine at the expense of its people and those who unwittingly left it.

The open-bridge policy always has been in the balance. It has been subject to judgments and assessments; the point was that the enemy should not benefit from this policy more that it loses. Jordan's understanding of this policy, which generated the slogan "Let him work, let him pass," deserved appreciation. It was in line with the pan-Arab goal of serving the Palestine question first, and Jordanian national interests second.

### Al-Qasim Briefs House Committee on Foreign Policy

*JN1601094690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
*15 Jan 90 pp 1, 20*

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minster and foreign minster, has briefed the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee on principles of the Jordanian foreign policy and the latest Middle East developments.

In a statement to journalists following yesterday's meeting, Deputy Tahir al-Masri, chairman of the committee, said Al-Qasim explained the current efforts to promote the peace process, whether through Jordan or Egypt, and indicated the PLO's stand toward these matters. He also explained the current situation in Lebanon and the Arab and international influencing factors, beginning with the tripartite committee's work.

Deputy al-Masri indicated the committee could not be briefed on all issues and therefore will meet again next week with the foreign minister. He also said the committee has drafted a mechanism for contact and cooperation between the committee and the Foreign Ministry.

Replying to a question on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's withdrawal of his plan, Deputy al-Masri said: I think the matter is one of biting fingers, and the loser will be the one who feels the pain. He pointed out Israel wants to keep things as they are so time will pass without a peaceful solution. Therefore, he said, it still is procrastinating over the basics. Both Baker's plan and the 10-point plan deal with procedural, rather than basic matters.

He indicated Israel is trying to get out of the deadlock, and the United States has not yet assumed its natural role in promoting the peace process. He said, however, I believe Israel finally will accept something reasonable, and the PLO will continue its persistent efforts to convince the world of the importance of attaining peace.

Deputy al-Masri stressed despite this Israeli intransigence, he will not be surprised to see positive developments regarding this. He added: Ultimately, only what is correct will prevail. No matter how intransigent Israel becomes, all factors are in favor of the Palestinian struggle and peace negotiations. These factors are embodied in the intifadah, the international atmosphere, and the sweeping current calling for respecting the human being and giving him his rights.

He indicated Israel's image has been shaken and will not return to its past shape. He added the committee has decided to approve the Arab Cooperation Council agreement, and this decision will be communicated to the House of Representatives' next session.

### Al-Khazin: No Secret Supplement to Al-Ta'if

*NC1401183290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin has denied the existence of a secret supplement to the al-Taif agreement. He said that the atmosphere of the Arab tripartite committee calls for optimism. He explained that a military resolution is out of the question now. Al-Khazin pointed out that the government intends to adopt many new administrative measures. He disclosed that the investigation of the crime of assassinating President Mu'awwad is proceeding normally.

### Speaker Al-Husayni Leaves for Talks in Paris

*NC1601105790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jan 90*

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has left for Paris via Damascus, where he will discuss developments in Lebanon with Syrian officials. In the French capital, Speaker al-Husayni will meet Phalangist Party leader Minister George Sa'adah and the Lebanese deputies now staying in Paris to discuss developments in Lebanon, particularly the convening of a meeting of the Chamber of Deputies to ratify the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement.

### Arab Envoy Ibrahimi Arrives, Meets Al-Hirawi

*NC1201182390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1735 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] We have just received a report that Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the tripartite Arab committee, suddenly arrived in Beirut a short while ago. He is now meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and will confer with Prime Minister al-Huss soon. This is Ibrahimi's first visit to Beirut since the Arab committee's recent tour of Syria, Iraq, France, and the Vatican.

### Blasts in Tripoli Kill One, Wound Others

*NC1301083790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] According to security sources, two explosions occurred in Tripoli this morning. One of the explosions occurred near the Rivoli movie theater, killing one person and wounding two others.

According to the details known, a blast occurred in 'Abd-al-Hamid Karami Square at 0845 today. Shortly afterwards, another explosion occurred next to the Byblos Bank in the financial area. According to available reports, the occupants of a car which sped through 'Abd-al-Hamid Karami Square threw a bag containing an explosive device under a parked car in the square. People in the area tried to throw the device away, but a car then drove over it and the device exploded. The vehicle caught fire but the passengers succeeded in getting away safely.

AFP has reported that there were three explosions. The agency added that the first blast occurred at 0845. Another explosion followed in 10 minutes, and a third one occurred 10 minutes after the second in a Tripoli square.

REUTER quoted security sources as saying that two small blasts occurred in Tripoli, damaging two vehicles. The agency said that the passengers of a speeding car hurled two bundles of dynamite under two cars, damaging them. It said that the speeding car then continued on its way.

### Five Blasts Reported

*NC1401180090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] According to reports from the north, five and not three explosions occurred in Tripoli yesterday. Two of these blasts targeted a Syrian intelligence center in the area of al-Tall, killing two Syrian soldiers and wounding four others, according to the same reports.

### Birri Accuses 'Awn in Explosions

*NC1301153790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri contacted Education Minister Attorney 'Umar Karami today to denounce the explosions which rocked Tripoli today. He said that General Michel 'Awn had ordered the blasts to take revenge on the steadfastness of the national areas.

In this connection, Attorney Karami expressed regret at these incidents which only lead to more victims, pain, and bloodshed. He said: If this is what solidarity, patriotism, and freedom mean, then woe to the patriotism and freedom that are based on bloodshed and the killing of innocent people.

### Clashes Reported on Beirut Combat Lines

*NC1301155390 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets took place on the Ra's al-Nab', Sodeco, and Primo combat lines in the capital at approximately 1515 this afternoon. According to security reports, a mortar round fell in the al-Bastah area at 1530, damaging the al-Mukhtala school building.

The situation remains unchanged in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Intermittent skirmishes continue between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. Ongoing efforts have not yet produced a cease-fire.

### Explosion in W. Beirut; Syrians Killed in Attack

*NC1401201190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] An explosive device went off at the Arab University in West Beirut shortly after 2200 tonight, damaging property.

According to reports from the north, a Syrian checkpoint on the road to the town of Shdrah in 'Akkar Province near the Lebanese-Syrian border came under attack last night. Four guards the checkpoint were killed. The Syrians were compelled to vacate the checkpoint for 24 hours.

### Birri's Guards Reportedly Clash With Syrians

*NC1501125390 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] According to security reports, the personnel in charge of the Museum crossing roadblock, which is jointly manned by members of Syrian occupation army intelligence and the 6th Brigade, are preventing people crossing to the liberated area from taking money with them.

In another development, a security problem occurred between elements of the Syrian occupation army intelligence and Nabih Birri's guards in Ibn-Khaldun street in Corniche al-Mazra'ah at 1030 today. A Syrian intelligence agent was injured.

Tension is now high in the region, particularly since the Syrian intelligence elements have promised retaliation.

### Army Positions in Mountain Area Come Under Fire

*NC1301113790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Army positions in 'Ayn al-Sayyidah and Hill 888 came under intermittent artillery fire this morning. There was also limited sniper fire along the Mazda and Galerie Sim'an combat lines in Beirut. Sniper fire was also directed at the al-Sayyad and al-Hazimiyah areas.

### More Clashes Reported

*NC1401151090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] We have just been informed that the Suq al-Gharb combat lines on the mountain have been the scene of clashes involving medium-caliber machineguns and rockets since approximately 1615. The military positions in the area came under mortar fire of various calibers a short while ago.

### Shiite Clashes Continue; Concentrations Noted

*NC1201192890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] Clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah between the Amal Movement and Hizballah have been intensifying and then abating on the Jarju', 'Ayn Bu-Siwar, 'Ayn Qana, Sarba, Kafr Milki, and Kafr Hatta combat lines. Hizballah sources said that the villages of 'Ayn Qana and 'Ayn Bu-Siwar came under artillery bombardment at 1400 today. The Amal Movement denied that any shelling had taken place.

REUTER reports that Hizballah, the Amal Movement, and the Palestinians have massed troops and that these reinforcements presage a major flareup.

Amal information sources told us this afternoon that Amal is not engaging in a military buildup, but is taking precautionary measures to prevent any new assault by Hizballah. These sources said that the Amal Movement is ready to defend itself.

### Casualty Toll Updated

*NC1301070290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving rockets and machineguns are continuing between the Amal Movement and Hizballah along the Jarju', Kafr Milki, and Kafr Hatta combat lines. According to AFP's updated report on casualties, 91 have been killed and 285 wounded since the clashes began.

### Fighting Continues 14 Jan

*NC1401124690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Fighting broke out along the capital's combat lines in Ra's al-Nab', Sodeco, and Primo this morning. Machineguns were used in the fighting.

Meanwhile, security reports from the south indicate that fighting between the Amal and Hizballah fighters is continuing along the combat lines of Jarju', Kafr Milki, and Kafr Hatta in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Rockets and machineguns are being used in the fighting.

### Israeli Planes Over Iqlim al-Tuffah

*NC1501110890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Iqlim al-Tuffah, which has been the scene of noticeable tension, and the area to the east of Sidon shortly after 0900 today, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Meanwhile, Israel radio has admitted that a number of Katyusha rockets fell in the Galilee panhandle area. The radio said that the rocket explosions caused no casualties.

Resistance fighters have fired five rockets at the security strip. According to some reports, some of the rockets fell in the al-Qulay'ah and Burj al-Muluk areas and others fell near the Zummarraya crossing point.

### Fatah Official on Syrian Stand

*NC1501181990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah resumed in Iqlim al-Tuffah this afternoon, particularly on the Kafr Killa, Kafr Milki, Kafr Hatta, 'Ayn Bu-Siwar, Jarju', and 'Arab Salim combat lines. Rockets and machineguns were involved in these clashes.

Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, received Iranian envoy Mohammed 'Ali Besharati today, who handed him a reply message from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They reviewed the results of the efforts being made to halt the fighting in the south.

Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah received Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli today. Fadlallah stressed the need for quick action to close the war file. He also called for using all methods in order to prevent the talks reaching a dead end.

Fadlallah met last night with Iranian envoy Besharati and stressed his absolute support for his initiative and called on the two warring parties to abide by it.

Meanwhile, Zayd Wahbah, Fatah's political official in Lebanon, said that Syria has adopted a positive stand on the Palestinian deployment in the south between Amal and Hizballah. He said: Damascus has not criticized this step and hence we consider its stand to be a positive one.

Regarding Fatah's relations with Iran, he said that they are not good but had not been completely severed. He added that Amal and Hizballah were informed of the Palestinian deployment in advance but Hizballah expressed reservations. He stressed that his fighters have shown self-restraint and have not retaliated haphazardly against the fundamentalist party. He went on to say that Fatah will not allow any of the two warring parties to gain the upper hand. He stressed that the deployment force will not withdraw as long as the desire to fight remains.

In another development in the south, security reports tonight said that an armed clash involving Palestinian elements took place in Sidon.

AFP reported today that Syria has prevented 60 members of the Iranian Revolution Guards from crossing the Syrian-Lebanese borders to replace compatriots who returned home earlier. The agency added that it could not get any comment on this report either from the Iranian Embassy in Beirut or from the pro-Iranian Hizballah.

### Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Sidon 12 Jan

*NC1201184690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] This afternoon Israeli aircraft flew over Sidon, the nearby camps, and Iqlim al-Kharrub, drawing antiaircraft fire.

### Israeli Vehicle Attacked; Casualties Reported

*NC1301073090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] The occupation forces and the agent Lahd militia bombarded the liberated areas facing al-Suwayda' in the South yesterday. Only material damage resulted.

Meanwhile, resistance fighters rocketed a position of the occupation forces in Tayr Harfa in the occupied western sector. The enemy position received direct hits. An Amal resistance group detonated an explosive charge as an Israeli military vehicle escorted by three infantrymen was passing on the al-Suwayda'-Tuhrah road. The blast left the vehicle completely destroyed and its crew either dead or wounded.

## Afghanistan

### Spokesman Rejects Pakistan's Charge on Missiles

*LD1301174290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman commented on unfounded allegations by the Pakistani Defense Ministry spokesman that the Armed Forces of Afghanistan allegedly launched Scud missiles on Pakistani territory.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said: By poisonous propaganda and accusations, Pakistan's military authorities and its Foreign Ministry want to cover its violations of the Geneva agreements, its interference, and its policy of intervention. This is not the first time that Pakistan has resorted to this type of incorrect accusation and propaganda; rather it is one of the many times it has embarked on such moves and mounts a new intervention, such as aggression in Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces and Khowst Major District, in order to turn world public opinion from the existing realities and a political solution for the problem of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's military doctrine is defensive, whereas Pakistan's policy is militaristic and interventionist and has turned itself to a springboard for intervening in Afghanistan and continues the policy of intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Catagorically rejecting those unsubstantiated and biased accusations by the Pakistani military, the Republic of Afghanistan once again draws the attention of the Government of Pakistan to refrain from old and discarded practices, honestly observe the Geneva agreements, and arrange its relations with the Republic of Afghanistan in the context of improving the international atmosphere and of the requirements of accepted international laws.

### Rebels Fire U.S. 'Cluster' Missiles on Kabul

*LD1401164390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Tonight the Pakistani-supported extremists fired U.S. surface-to-surface missiles onto residential areas of the city of Kabul. The BAKHTAR military section, quoting a source from the Kabul Garrison High Command, reports that two of the missiles were U.S. cluster missiles. They were fired by their servants according to the state terrorism plans of the United States and Pakistan. These missiles in effect become 98 anti-personnel mines when they strike. The other four missiles were Sakr-30 U.S. long-range missiles, which are being launched by the extremists on residential areas to murder our Muslim compatriots en masse. This contravenes all international and humanitarian norms and standards, despite the fact the use of these missiles is banned by the international community. Fortunately, no loss of life occurred as a result of today's missiles, but they caused financial damage.

### Rockets Hit Kabul; Embassies Asked To Reopen

*BK1301165090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1646 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Kabul, Jan 13 (AFP)—Four people died in resistance rocket attacks on Kabul Saturday [13 January], officials said, as the government guaranteed the safety of diplomats of nations willing to reopen their embassies in the Afghan capital.

Seven rockets fired by the mujahidin fell in Kabul, leaving four dead, a government spokesman said. Five rockets hit the outskirts of Kabul airport.

But a Foreign Ministry spokesman, welcoming the French decision announced last week to reopen its embassy here, said Kabul should no longer be considered an undue security risk for Western diplomats.

"The Government of Afghanistan... invites all Western countries to take into account the existing facts and situation in our country and decide to reopen their embassies in Kabul," the spokesman said. "The Republic of Afghanistan will ensure the safety and security of these diplomats," he added.

The Indonesian Embassy reopened Wednesday, after remaining shut for the last 11 months.

A number of Western and other nations' missions closed in Kabul just before Soviet troops withdrew in February.

The spokesman further denied Islamabad reports quoting Pakistan-based mujahidin fighters that they had captured three important security posts at Khowst in eastern Afghanistan. He said the three posts—Towr Ghar, Isma'el Kheyl and Tanay—had been hit by resistance rocketing in the last three days, but the attack had been repulsed. "Nothing serious is happening in Khowst. It is just this sporadic fighting," he said at a regular press briefing.

He also denied a Pakistan Government statement that a Soviet-built Scud missile landed in Islamabad. "The military doctrines of Afghanistan are defensive, not aggressive. Even when the government fires rockets it is not into civilian areas. The claim of the Government of Pakistan is groundless," he remarked.

(In Pakistan, a U.N. observer team Saturday visited the site where a Scud missile fired from Afghanistan landed some 30 kilometers north of Islamabad Wednesday, state-run Pakistani television reported.)

### Spokesman on Reopening Embassies

*LD1401064990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 13, BAKHTAR—The RA [Republic of Afghanistan] Foreign Affairs Ministry welcomed the decision of France for reopening its embassy in Kabul.

In this connection, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) in relation to the reopening of the embassies of some

countries which were closed on the threshold of the return of Soviet forces from the RA back home, said that recently the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the RA in Paris was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France. He has informed the RA Government that the French authorities have decided to reopen their embassy in Kabul soon. This measure of the Government of the Republic of France has been brought through the mass media to the attention of the world people as well.

The Republic of Afghanistan while welcoming this decision of France, considers it as a firm step towards the strengthening and expansion of relations between the two countries, is hopeful that it sends its diplomatic corps to the Afghan capital as soon as possible, he said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA in its letters addressed to the foreign ministers of those countries who have evacuated their embassies in Kabul during the Soviet troops withdrawal, invited them to reactivise their embassies in Kabul. They were assured that the RA through all possibilities at hand and in accordance with international norms and principles specially the Vienna Convention secures the security and safety of their diplomats the spokesman stressed.

With keeping in view the development of situation in Afghanistan, especially after the return of the Soviet forces and independent defence from independence, peoples sovereignty territorial integrity and democratic life as well as current process of improvement of relations in international arena, once again invites other Western countries that keeping in view present-day realities in our country reopen their embassies in the Afghan capital, the spokesman remarked. [sentence as received]

The RA considers itself duty-bound that as per the present condition in the country maintains, as it did in the past, secure their normal diplomatic activities in the Afghan capital. [sentence as received]

So far, despite the closure of their embassies the RA has maintained its diplomatic relations with these countries and the Afghan diplomatic missions are active in their capitals. Also, despite the absence of their diplomats strict security for their embassies in Kabul has been maintained during the past one year.

## 'Extremists' Launch Assault on Khowst District

*LD1401063990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0527 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 13—BAKHTAR—The joint forces of the Afghan extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis started their assault on different areas of Khowst Grand District on Thursday (January 11, 1990) reports our military correspondent.

The detachments of the armed forces based in Khowst resorted to counter attack either killing or wounding 430 persons attached to the enemy. A large number of arms and munitions which belonged to the enemy were destroyed in the operations as well.

The report adds that as a result of the enemy's attack on different regions of Khowst seven personnel of the armed forces were killed and fifteen others including two civilians wounded.

## Attacks 'Decisively Repulsed'

*LD1601091390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] The units and companies of the heroic Armed Forces stationed in the Khowst area carry out their patriotic tasks with high morale and combat capability and are ready to foil all possible kinds of attacks by extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis. Yesterday's attack by joint enemy forces, which was launched from the direction of Tanay District and Towr Ghar, was decisively repulsed by the units and companies of the Armed Forces. As a result of the strikes carried out against the enemy groups on 11 and 14 January, their morale has become very low and they have suffered heavy casualties.

The BAKHTAR military section, quoting an authoritive source in the Armed Forces, reports that during the past 4 days the warmongers have fired heavy weapons at security posts in the city of Khowst and Towr Ghar, as well as security posts of the defense positions in Tanay, (?Makan), and Gorbuz Districts. During the past 4 days, in the course of combat operations by the units and companies and air and artillery strikes launched in retaliation against these criminal and terroristic actions, a total of 585 persons including 20 ringleaders of the groups from the joint forces of the enemy were eliminated from the combat ranks. In addition, 4 mortars, 14 machineguns, 5 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, 3 radio sets, 2 75-mm guns, 3 BM-12 systems, and 6 rocket launchers were destroyed. As a result of criminal actions by the enemy during the past 4 days, 9 personnel of the units and companies were martyred and 19 persons, including 3 local people, were injured.

The source adds that the units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province are engaged in consolidating, expanding, and equipping their previous defense positions and lines. During the past 4 days armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have fired on the same regions and garrisons in Samar Kheyl, Jalalabad, Behsud, Sara Rud, Shaykh Mecy, and Kahan, and Katerghay.

Air and artillery forces have fired on enemy positions in order to foil their terrorist and criminal actions. As a result 65 warmongers were eliminated from the combat ranks. One of their ringleaders, Muhammad 'Azim, was arrested with antistate documents, and one rocket launcher, eight mortars, and two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report a number of units and companies in Qandahar Province have carried out a series of mopping up operations in the region of Towr Kotal. As a result, 50 recoilless shells, 10 antitank mines, 50 mortar shells, and 1 vehicle belonging to the armed extremist groups attached to Pakistan have been captured.

Armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have fired heavy weapons on a number of the security posts of Qandahar garrison. In retaliation, air and artillery forces have attacked their positions. As a result, 20 warmongers were crushed, and 2 BM-12 systems, 3 BM-1 systems, 2 mortars, and 5 DShK's were destroyed.

The BAKHTAR military section's report adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Laghman Province wiped out six guards of an arms and ammunition convoy of the extremists supported by Pakistan in Qarqa-e District by ambushing the convoy's route. Forty-five cases of DShK's shells, 20 cases of PK [as heard], 25 cases of Kalashnikov shells, and 30 rocket launcher shells were seized. Rocket launchers, recoilless guns, heavy machineguns, surface-to-surface missiles, and various types of arms and ammunition belonging to the enemy were also destroyed.

### Mujahidin Repulse Attack Southwest of Kabul

*BK1601031490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 16 Jan 90*

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have repulsed an attack of the Kabul regime forces in (Arghandi), 18 km southwest of Kabul. Twenty-three Kabul regime troops, including their commander, were killed in the operation and an equal number arrested. Military correspondents report that several attempts of Kabul regime troops to retake positions from mujahidin in the area have failed.

In Jalalabad District, mujahidin attacked a Kabul regime headquarters near Samar Kheyl, inflicting casualties on the troops. Mujahidin also attacked Mehtarlam, the capital of Laghman Province, with artillery and rockets.

### Najibullah Meets Soviet POW's Families Delegation

*LD1401185290 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Kabul 14 Jan BAKHTAR—Yesterday Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received the all-union delegation of the families of the Soviet Union POWs at Gol Khanah Presidential Palace.

Dr Basir Ranjbar, chairman of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Society of the Republic of Afghanistan; Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and plenipotentiary extraordinary [as received] of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan; and Saidovskiy, minister counsellor of the Soviet Union Embassy to Kabul were present.

At the meeting Andronov, head of the delegation, on behalf of all Soviet people and those families whose children are prisoners of the armed opposition of the Republic of Afghanistan, expressed his profound thanks and appreciation for the efforts by Esteemed Najibullah to obtain the release of those prisoners. Also, two mothers whose sons are presently prisoners in the hands of the opposition, expressed their thanks on behalf of other Soviet mothers in this regard.

Esteemed Najibullah, having stressed the traditional friendship between the people of two countries, assured the delegation that the organs of the Republic of Afghanistan, and he himself, will spare no efforts regarding the release of these prisoners.

## India

### Government To Oppose Union Carbide Settlement

*BK1201162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] The government has decided to oppose the $470 million settlement reached last year with the multinational Union Carbide Corporation in the Bhopal gas disaster case. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the law and justice minister, Mr Dinesh Goswami, said the compensation amount as decided by the Supreme Court earlier is inadequate in view of what he called the worst industrial disaster of the world affecting the lives and health of lakhs of people. He said the government decided to support the main points of contention of the petitioners who had filed a number of review petitions before the Supreme Court. Making the new government's stand on the issue, the minister said the government has no right or authority to arrive at a settlement which takes away all rights of the affected victims in respect of criminal liability.

Mr Goswami also announced that a one-time interim relief will be granted to the affected people in the 36 severely affected municipal wards of Bhopal. He said the quantum of interim relief and its distribution will be decided in consultation with the representatives of the activist groups who filed the review petitions in the Supreme Court. A meeting with this purpose will be convened soon, he added.

### Ambassador to U.S. Tenders Resignation

*BK1301124090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] India's ambassador to the United States, Dr Karan Singh, has tendered his resignation from the post after a 5-month tenure. In a letter to the prime minister, which was released to the press, Dr Karan Singh said that he was resigning on the advice of the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, whom he had met on Thursday evening [11 January].

Dr Karan Singh said that he had wanted to quit after change of government, but due to preoccupations and some important meetings he decided to wait till the Christmas vacation.

### Pakistani Statement on Kashmir 'Unacceptable'

*BK1501125990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] New Delhi has urged Pakistan to desist from giving encouragement to terrorism directed against India. Reacting strongly to yesterday's statement made by a Pakistani official spokesman on Jammu and Kashmir, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi said this evening that the statement was unwarranted, wanton, and unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of India. He said Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, and the only issue that remains to be solved is the vacation of the areas of the state illegally occupied by Pakistan. The spokesman said that Pakistan's claim of concern about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is hollow. The official spokesman's remarks regarding self-determination are a travesty of facts. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had on several occasion exercised their political rights through free and fair elections.

On the other hand, the spokesman said, there is overwhelming evidence of terrorists receiving support from Pakistan. Besides, leaders of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] are freely allowed to make statements and even threats against India from Pakistani soil. Vicious propaganda is also being made by Islamabad's official electronic media.

### Official Spokesman's Statement

*BK1501154290 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1502 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Statement read by External Affairs Ministry spokesman on 15 January in New Delhi]

[Text] 1. It was with regret that we saw the Pakistan official spokesman's statement on Jammu and Kashmir made on 14th January. We view this statement as wanton, unwarranted and unacceptable interference in our internal affairs. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and the only issue that remains to be resolved is vacation of those areas of the state which are illegally occupied by Pakistan.

2. Pakistan's claim of concern about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is gratuitous and hollow. Their official spokesman's remarks regarding "self determination" are a travesty of the facts. The people of Jammu and Kashmir as indeed the people of the rest of India have, on several occasions, exercised their political rights through free and fair elections. The Pakistan spokesman's claim that there is no hostile activity across the line of control does not stand scrutiny. There is overwhelming evidence of terrorists receiving support from Pakistan. Leaders of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] are routinely being allowed to make statements even direct threats against India from Pakistani soil. Vicious propaganda is being disseminated by Pakistan's official, electronic media.

3. Despite repeated provocations India has refrained from commenting on law and order problems in various parts of Pakistan.

4. It our hope that Pakistan will exercise similar restraint and desist from giving encouragement to terrorism directed against India. Such action violates bilateral regional and international obligations including terms of Simla agreement and is not conducive to peace and stability in region.

### 150 'Pakistan-Trained Subversives' Arrested

*BK1501162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two persons, including one intelligence bureau official, were shot dead by some unidentified assailants. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the incident took place at (Nowgam) near Srinagar when the victims, traveling in a local bus, were shot at point-blank range.

Meanwhile, curfew was reimposed in Sopor Town and in Magam as a precautionary measure at about 1100 today. Curfew was, however, relaxed in other towns except Anantnag. Reports further say that four buildings were damaged in different incidents of arson and bomb blasts in Srinagar since this morning.

Meanwhile, about 150 subversives who had arms training in Pakistan have been arrested. Giving this information in Jammu today, the home secretary, Mahmudur Rahman, said that combing operation for the arrest of the remaining 100 Pakistan-trained subversives is on. But the hardcore subversives are still elusive. Vigil by the security forces has been further intensified in a coordinated manner, and 45 checkpoints have been established.

### Army To 'Continue To Stand its Ground in Siachen'

*BK1501092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Excerpt] The chief of the Army staff, General V.N. Sharma, has said that the Indian Army will continue to stand its ground in Siachen till the line of control is agreed upon between India and Pakistan. Addressing officers and jawans [soldiers] at a smartly turned out Army Day parade in New Delhi today, Gen Sharma commended the role of the Armed Forces in Siachen and Sri Lanka. Gen Sharma called upon the Armed Forces personnel to continue their strenuous training and always be operationally prepared to defend the country and uphold democracy. [passage omitted]

### President Apprised of Punjab, Kashmir Situation

*BK1501052690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, yesterday apprised the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, of the current situation in Punjab and Kashmir and assured him that there would be no compromise with terrorists. Agency reports quoting official sources said that the home minister, who met the president last night, told him that the center viewed with concern the developments in Kashmir. He said on its part the union government has provided all help including paramilitary forces to the state to help it tide over the current situation in the valley.

The home minister also apprised the president of the deliberations in the cabinet committee on Punjab and Kashmir.

### Jammu, Kashmir Governor To Be Replaced

*BK1401160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, has said that the governor of Jammu and Kashmir will be replaced within a few days. He was talking to newsmen at Someshwar Nagar in Pune District in Maharashtra today. He said the Jammu and Kashmir issue is being taken up with the Pakistan Government.

On the Punjab problem, Mr Devi Lal said the National Front government has accorded top priority to solve the problem. Later, inaugurating a farmers' rally, he said that his government is committed to fulfill the assurances given before the Lok Sabha elections.

### Governor Submits Resignation

*BK1501030290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has resigned. News agency reports quoting Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] sources in Jammu said last night that the governor had submitted his resignation letter to the president.

General Rao had been appointed governor of the state last year at the completion of tenure of the former governor, Mr Jag Mohan.

Our correspondent, however, reports that there is no official confirmation about the resignation.

### Kashmir's Accession Into India Called 'Final'

*BK1501130590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that the reported remarks made by the minister of state for information, Mr Ali Mohammad Sagar, were the personal views of the minister and neither the state government nor he as chief minister shared those.

Mr Sagar is reported to have suggested a dialogue with the militants by restoring the pre-1953 constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir State.

In an official press statement in Jammu today, Dr Abdullah said the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian union is final and irrevocable. He said the only part of the state whose future is yet to be decided is the part still under illegal occupation of Pakistan.

### Kashmir Chief Minister Comments on Situation

*BK1301063890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew has been completely lifted from (Kotwara), Handwara, and (Tregam) towns from 0500 this morning. However, in Sopor, Old Baramula town, Anantnag, Tral, Shupiyan, Matayan, Brij Behara, and Bandipur the curfew continues. In Srinagar city the curfew has been relaxed for 9 hours from 0500 this morning. Our Srinagar correspondent in a telephone dispatch this morning reports that a bomb blast damaged a residential house in (Ladura Rasiabad), and a post office and a school building in the Srinagar city were set ablaze last evening.

Meanwhile, reacting to the developments in the state, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that the government will not allow anybody to take away freedom and liberty of our citizens at gunpoint. Addressing a public meeting at Hiranagar in Kathua District yesterday, he said government is committed to protect the life and property of the citizens. The chief minister reiterated that Jammu and kashmir is an integral part of India and no power on earth can separate it. He said the country is capable of meeting the challenge of terrorism in Kashmir valley and the present situation will soon be overcome.

### Cross-firing, Bomb Blasts Reported in Kashmir

*BK1401090990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew in almost all the towns of the valley is being relaxed in a phased manner today. In Srinagar, curfew has been relaxed for 12 hours from 0500 this morning.

There were reports of cross-firing and bomb blasts in various places in the valley yesterday. Some people, including personnel of police and paramilitary forces, were injured. Damages were also caused to some buildings.

### Communist Leader, 8 Others Killed in Punjab

*BK1401125190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] In the Bhatinda District of Punjab, Mr Guru Sevak Singh, a communist leader, was shot dead near his house in the Civil Lines area by terrorists today. Recently, he had resigned from the CPI [Communist Party of India] and joined the United Communist Party of India.

Elsewhere in the state, eight persons, including six terrorists, were killed in separate incidents.

## Iran

### Velayati Visits Tabriz, Comments on Azarbayjan

*LD1301182490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati arrived in Tabriz this morning at the head of a delegation to appraise the arrangements made by Eastern and Western Azarbayjan Provinces to properly receive the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan.

The delegation's visit follows the recent developments in Soviet Azerbaijan, demonstrations and requests by the Muslims for more facilities for travelling to and establishing cultural and commercial ties with Iran. While holding talks with Eastern Azarbayjan officials, the delegation appraised the arrangements made to properly receive the Muslim people of USSR, during tours, as agreed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union.

Regarding the arrangements made to receive Soviet Muslims, in an interview with a Tabriz Central News Bureau correspondent, Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording] After President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to the Soviet Union, a number of agreements were signed between the Iranian and Soviet Governments, including one on the provision of consular and tourist facilities between the two countries. Over the past few weeks, following the recent global and regional developments and the growing number of requests by Muslims in Soviet republics where Muslims reside, particularly Soviet Azerbaijan, for these facilities or for a speedier implementation of agreements previously reached by the two governments, and also due to the fact that the Soviet Government raised the issue through various means, including the trip by Deputy Foreign Minister Vaezi and the trip by the head of the Foreign Ministry passpost office to Baku, the Islamic Republic of Iran declared its readiness to implement the agreements signed during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip. We informed the Soviet side that we could see no difficulties in receiving Soviet Muslims who want to visit our country, in accordance with the signed agreements. Accompanied by a number of our brothers and colleagues from the Foreign Ministry and other establishments, such as the Interior Ministry and the Guidance Ministry, we arrived in Azarbayjan today. We held a coordination meeting with the governor-general of Eastern Azarbayjan, His Eminence Ayatollah Malakuti, the honorable Friday imam of Tabriz, and other officials of the province to enable us to be better prepared to receive Muslims who come to Iran from our neighboring country. [end recording]

Regarding the recent developments in the Soviet Union, the foreign minister said: Due to the past restrictions in the Soviet Union, fundamental problems were created for that country. Consequently, by arranging certain facilities, the Soviet leaders set out to remove those restrictions. This had extremely deep and widespread political repercussions in the world, the region, and inside the USSR. Thanks to these moves and the opportunity, the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan are now expressing their heartfelt requests, which include the provisions of more facilities for establishing friendly and brotherly ties with other Muslims, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Further on Velayati Remarks

*LD1301193990 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbayjan Prov., Jan. 13, IRNA—Iran has no difficulty in receiving Muslims, or their relatives, from the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan who want to come to the Islamic Republic to visit its holy shrines, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced here today.

Speaking to reporters Velayati said preparations have been made in this regard and in case of the Soviets agree Iran will host Muslims from Azerbaijan within friendly and good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

"A session was held today for further coordination and preparation in this respect with ranking officials from the East Azarbayjan Province, in which the officials expressed readiness to receive the Muslims from the Soviet Azerbaijan," he said noting that the Culture and Guidance Ministry too had earlier announced its readines.

Emphasizing on the significance of border exchanges in cultural, ideological, and commercial fields as well as implementation of the joint projects Velayati said legal formalities of the joint project for construction of "Khoda-Afarin" and "Qezqalasi" dams over the border areas river have been completed and construction operations will start soon.

On the Soviet mediation proposal for implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 Velayati said, "The Islamic

Republic of Iran has no problem in principle to consider the proposal positively," however, he added, it should not have any contradiction with the goals of the resolution.

"On the contrary the plan should, in fact, help the U.N. secretary general, something that the Soviets too agree with," Velayati said, while stressing that the plan would be useful if it is within the framework of the resolution.

He said Iranian officials are to study the proposal which is to be presented to them by Soviet deputy foreign minister shortly.

### 'Emotional Scenes' on Border

*LD1401225390 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Poldasht (East Azarbayjan), Jan. 14, IRNA—Despite the extreme cold Soviet Azeris continued to gather across the border river Aras, and waved enthusiastically at their Iranian brethren.

There were many children and women along the fairly large crowd of Soviet Muslims standing along a 2-km line along the river bank. They were jubilantly shouting Islamic slogans.

People on the Iranian side of the river also gathered together, and cheerfully began responding to the Soviet Azeris, with whom many share family ties.

About 30 Soviet Muslims, some on inflated rubber tubes and some swimming the icy waters of Aras, reached the Iranian shore and were warmly welcomed by their Iranian brethren in emotional scenes.

For the past several days, the border region has been scene of massive gatherings on the Soviet side, with the Muslims demanding facilities to visit their kinsmen in Iran.

With the approach of dusk, the 5-hour gathering ended at 17:00 hours local time (13:30 GMT).

In related news, another 1,000 Soviet Azeris held a demonstration opposite the Iranian border town of Jolfa today, demanding that Soviet officials speed up their efforts to facilitate travel to Iran.

They also exchanged messages with their Iranian relatives standing on the other side of the river. The information included addresses, telephone numbers and identities, written on scraps of paper and wrapped around small stones which were thrown across the river.

Those, who managed to trace their relatives after more than 50 years were so overcome by emotion, that they beat their chests and heads out of joy.

### Gorbachev Reputation 'At Stake'

*LD1601112890 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 16 Jan 90*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, (IRNA)—An Iranian daily Tuesday recommended the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to treat the domestic issues facing him "with an open-minded interpretation of the reality."

It is a must if he wants to "remain the beacon of Soviet moral and political conscience," said 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial. Otherwise, the daily said that the recent unrests in Baku, Vilnius and Tbilisi would pose "real political manifesto against his reforms."

"It is difficult to arrive at a measured judgement about the degree of political maneuvers Mikhail Gorbachev will undertake to tackle the present national crisis facing Moscow," the English daily said.

The editorial added that Gorbachev's radical changes made the Soviets to think creatively and to "be more conscious of their ethnic and national identities."

"As the rest of the world wonders what his next move will be vis-a-vis the mushrooming independence movements within the USSR, Gorbachev's reformist reputation is certainly put at stake."

### President To Visit Moscow 'Later This Month'

*LD1401095390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0706 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 14 (KUNA)—Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will pay a second visit to Moscow later this month, a Kuwaiti daily quoted a well informed source Sunday.

The unidentified source told AL-QABAS that Hashemi-Rafsanjani will hold talks with Soviet official on means of calming the situation in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan because Iran is afraid that violence would spread to the Iranian part of Azarbayjan.

### Shevardnadze To Present Mediation Plan in Tehran

*NC1401141490 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Tehran, Jan 14 (AFP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is to visit Tehran shortly to present Moscow's plan to mediate between Iran and Iraq, KEYHAN newspaper reported here Sunday.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, quoted by the paper, said the "imminent visit" was aimed at fixing a meeting in Moscow between Mr. Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz.

Iran and Iraq have both reacted positively to the recent Soviet offer to revive their U.N.-brokered peace talks, which have been deadlocked since a cease-fire in the eight-year Gulf war took effect in August 1988.

But Iran's U.N. envoy, Kamal Kharrazi, has said it must not only follow U.N. Resolution 598, providing the framework for a settlement, but also assume recognition of the 1975 Algiers accord on the disputed Shatt al-'Arab waterway.

Iraq has repeatedly declared the accord null and void, claiming sovereignty over the entire waterway, which flows into the Gulf. The two countries also differ sharply in their interpretation of Resolution 598.

### Velayati on Soviet Proposal

*LD1401210390 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati while elaborating on Moscow's proposal to mediate between Iran and Iraq, today criticized certain Iranian mass media reflections of the issue.

"While the Soviet foreign minister has four times invited us to Moscow for a tripartite meeting, it is a pity that certain segments of the mass media have dealt with the issue in a way, as if Iran had called for Soviet mediation," he said.

Velayati, addressing the concluding day of a meeting to review recent international developments, said the Soviet proposal had first been made during his visit to New York last November.

While in New York, he said the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar quoting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, had informed him of Moscow's desire to play a more active role in removing differences between Iran and Iraq without overshadowing the U.N. role.

"Thrice, the Soviet officials made their verbal proposal, and it was only after we received a written proposal from them the fourth time, that we replied," said the Iranian foreign minister.

He continued "in our written message to the Soviets, we stressed that our stand on implementation of UN Resolution 598 is unalterable, the 1975 accord is irrevocable and that our decisive reply is pending their proposal."

He quoted Soviet officials as saying that their proposal was intended to "strengthen and not undermine," the U.N. chief's plan and as asking for a month's time to make public their entire proposal.

Elsewhere in his speech, Velayati called for a comprehensive and serious study into what was really going on in the world.

"Over the past few months we have time and again heard world political figures saying they had been caught off guard or it was all unexpected," he told the session on current world developments.

The foreign minister said that it seems new definitions should be made regarding relations between countries and the world community and several strategies need to be revised or rewritten.

"We should see what our definition of power distribution is, how we see the future world arena, where do we stand and which path lies ahead of us for attainment of our ideal goal," he added.

Velayati, calling for a new evaluation of regional groupings, said it was not certain whether such alliances could survive in their present shapes in the future since neither NATO nor Warsaw Pact are likely to remain in their present shapes.

Referring to recent developments in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Velayati said that NAM had undergone many changes between its first session in Belgrade and its 8th meet.

Initially, the 8th NAM session in Belgrade showed an inclination towards the left in the beginning, he said "but we saw the first practical and serious impacts of perestroyka in the same session."

"I, who have taken part in three NAM sessions in New Delhi, Harare and Belgrade, can say that the stand adopted in Harare was tangibly different from that taken in Belgrade... this trend will continue and we should have new definition for the movement."

The foreign minister said that international confrontations were now less possible than before but that economic competitions would vigorously continue.

"Here we should see what our duty as officials of the Islamic Republic is... it is necessary for us to find out, at the earliest, what our duty is in this chaotic world now being reconstructed and reshaped, or else we might fall behind," he cautioned.

### Khamene'i Grants Yazdi's Request for Amnesty

*LD1601120290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 90*

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, has granted the request of Mr Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, for an amnesty for a number of people condemned by military courts. The text of the letter of the head of the judiciary is as follows:

In His exalted name. To the blessed presence of the honorable leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may your shadow continue. Greetings. The head of the judicial organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces has announced that those sentenced to prison terms by military courts are eligible for a pardon on the occasion of the blessed anniversary of the birth of the honorable prophet of Islam, may God's peace be upon him and his scion. He also announced that some of

those condemned by military courts, who had committed less serious offences and were sentenced to extra military service, were not eligible to be pardoned. It has been requested that those specific people be made eligible for a pardon on 18 January, the blessed occasion of the anniversary of the birth of Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra, may God's peace be upon her. If Your Eminence permits, these people will be eligible for pardons as follows:

1. All those sentenced to up to 1 year of extra military service shall be pardoned.
2. All those sentenced to more than 1 year of extra military service will have half their sentence commuted.

[Signed] Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary

The text of the reply of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, is as follows:

In His exalted name. Permission is granted for the pardon of the specified people on the auspicious occasion of her immaculate holiness, may God's peace be upon her, and also on the anniversary of the birth of the true descendent, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 16 January 1990

## Yazdi Says Judges Must Maintain Independence

*PM1001124390 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Dec 89 p 2*

[Unidentified correspondent's report]

[Text] Arak—Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judiciary, arrived in Arak last Thursday to review the judicial problems facing the Central Province. He was accompanied by the minister of justice.

He took part in a gathering with clerics, judges, and officials in charge of various offices in the province. He also took part in an administrative meeting and met with Ayatollah Konsari, representative of the supreme jurisconsult and the Friday imam of Arak.

In a meeting with the province's judges, Ayatollah Yazdi said: Because of the sensitive role that he plays, a judge cannot expect everyone to like him. If someone or some people write articles or use the mass media to criticize judges, that is normal and must not affect the judges. They must have an independent spirit and go about their business.

He expressed satisfaction with regard to the judiciary and added: We have now reached a desirable level of division of labor in the judicial system as well as the creation of a centralized management for the judiciary. He also mentioned something important: The judiciary is the backbone of a regime. He added: Neither you nor I will remain in these positions forever, so we must try during our time of office to take steps to complete and complement the judicial system.

During a provincial administrative meeting, Ayatollah Yazdi mentioned the reconstruction period and the necessity for the legal body to complete the existing laws. He asked officials and interested parties to make an effort to solve the country's problems and shortcomings, especially those concerning judicial matters, by uniting their thoughts and actions.

He announced that local legal issues will be dealt with locally by local officials as much as possible, by giving them temporary, limited legal powers. He said that if a rapid decision on a case is deemed beyond the ability of local legal officials, then an assize court will be used. He added: The formation of assize courts is a new power granted by a recent Majles ruling.

This report indicates that during his meeting with Ayatollah Khonsari, Ayatollah Yazdi gave a speech. During this speech he said: One of the problems facing the judiciary which prevents it from implementing Islamic law in full is the shortage of religious judges. He commented on the recent laws being passed by the Majles to strengthen the judicial system, asked all clergymen to keep in mind the opportunity created for them to serve Islam, and asked them to serve the judiciary.

## Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayers Sermons

### Second Sermon

*LD1201200190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1210 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Second Friday Prayers sermon delivered by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 12 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses] After a renewed call for the observation of piety and for the performance of duties, in my second sermon I will briefly speak about the events of the week and about domestic and international issues.

We are on the threshold of Women's Day, next week, with the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Zahra, may God's peace and blessing be upon her. And we put behind us 19 Dey [9 January], the day on which the heroic people of Qom, with their well-judged uprising, took a great stride toward the extension of the Islamic revolution. We also have the anniversary of the martyrdom of some of the eminent martyrs of Islam. And today, we had the march of the Vanguards of Chastity. On the whole, a brief discussion can encompass all of these occasions:

The situation in our country must be moving very rapidly toward improvement and stability since we can see this section of our history as two opposing days in one generation: On one day, the accursed Reza Khan celebrated in this country, on 17 Dey, the removal of the

chador as a covering for Muslim women. And today, our Muslim women march in order to emphasize the need for the hejab and to oppose incorrect hejabs and the absence of hejabs. We are still thinking about 17 Dey, but they have prepared their program for the occasion of Women's Day, the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Zahra.

At this time we can see that the trend of social movement in the world is toward the absence of hejab, immodesty, bad behavior, and the ill-treatment of women. In this land of the lord of the age, that oustanding personality of our century and our history who was opposed to all the anti-ethical movements of the world, this country strives for the revival of the personality of women and for recovering what has been lost to women: modesty, chastity, and their spiritual personality, the Islamic personality of women. Today that is a monopoly of this country, as a system and as a government. Throughout the world, there are many isolated instances of efforts by Muslim women to maintain hejab and dignity, but systematic and legal instances, in accordance with the constitution, belief, faith, and system. That kind of movement is very valuable.

If a person could simultaneously and from a single vantage point see the face of our society 15 years ago, for example, 11 years ago, and today, regarding the quality of women's lives, and compare them side by side—caberets, cafes, streets, beaches, restaurants, schools, universities, cinemas, radio, television, and all of life, and families—looking at all of that one side and on the other side looking at the faces of these women, he would see how much progress we have made.

At one time in this country there was talk of freedom of nudity: Half-naked women were not satisfied with that degree of absence of the hejab; they wanted permission for full nudity. Today our women are worried about why some leave some of their hair showing underneath their hejab and why they are not prepared to wear the correct and full hejab. See how great the difference is between then and now! See how far this nation has come!

Of course, we still have not fully attained our goal. Once, women tramps used to address women from this country's tribunes, but today a chaste young woman comes and reads to the people from the Friday prayers tribune a resolution on chastity, women's hejab, and Islamic morality. [crowd chants support]

Before the revolution this very lawn of the university was such that if a religious person passed by here and saw the scenes of familiarity between men and women students, young girls and boys, on this lawn, he would be ashamed and would not be able to look. I passed by this way many times myself and I turned my head away. Today, it is the scene of these women's demonstrations and slogans and the scene of that resolution being read.

Let it not come to pass that some people are ungrateful about this revolution and, because of some shortfalls and some of the unpleasant scenes they see on the streets with respect to some impious women, that they should think that nothing has been achieved. What has been achieved is very great.

You can see that the world is fighting over the question of whether a student wearing the hejab should be allowed into university; whether a little student with a scarf over her head should be allowed into a French school. That is how human dignity is treated there and this is how it is treated here. Women should be very happy; they have achieved a great deal through this revolution and through Islam. Of course, we are still some way from that which Her Holiness Zahra wished for us and from the model which Zahra set for us.

The martyrs of Islam were those great ones who, at the time of oppression and at the height of power of the Pahlavi dictator and traitor, chanted slogans for the meticulous implementation of Islam—including the hejab. They gave their lives for their beliefs and we honor their memory today. And they were the honorable people of Qom who—in all fairness, Qom has always been the fortress of Islam throughout its history and today, too, it is the fortress of Islam.

And I know that the people of Qom live in contentment and they have always been loyal to the clergy, to the leadership, to the vice regency of the jurisconsult and to the revolution and Islam. That blessed fortress shone once again in the history of Islam and with its 19 Dey uprising it brought the imam's message to Iran; and the Iranian nation began to follow Qom.

God be praised, today we see the solidarity, unity, and cohesion of the forces of the line of the imam behind our eminent leader. They have strengthened the foundations of this Islamic society and they are advancing toward reconstruction.

The second issue which I would like to discuss is that of the ratification of the 5-year plan in the Majles, which is one of the significant chapters in our history. Fortunately, with the aid of the open tribune of the Majles—and our people from all over the country have been following the Majles debates daily—the 5-year plan has been made more or less clear to the people; therefore, I will only refer to one or two points. Firstly, it is only fair to thank the Majles both for their constructive debates—they clarified the issues very well: issues put forward by those against, which were answered by those for—and the efforts of specifically the members of the Majles Planning Committee.

I stress that in my time in the Majles, I have seen the fundamental role played by that committee in the past couple of years—in the third cycle—in strengthening the bases of the 5-year plan. Praise be to God, this plan was ratified in the Majles, and with a very high majority—contrary to the accusations leveled at this nation by the foreign and unjust radios of harboring differences of opinion, at the Majles of being dominated by a radical and extremist morality. You saw how well the Majles debates were carried out, and the decisive majority of

Majles representatives endorsed what they saw as productive for their system and country, passing them on to the Council of Guardians.

There are four or five points in the 5-year plan, on which I would like to elaborate, in order to put our people in the picture—of course, the newspapers write them, the television and radio broadcast them, and you are therefore aware of its generalities. It is the first time in the course of our revolution that we are drawing up a long-term plan for our future; so far we have drawn up plans annually, and now it has changed to a 5-year plan.

In this 5-year plan we have important objectives under consideration which we must implement during the next 5 years, and if accomplished in the next 5 or 4 years, the economic situation of our country will be different from the way it is today. In our 5-year plan we have envisioned a gross growth [rosht-e na khales] at the constant prices of 8 percent a year, which means that even if it gains 5-8 a year we will have an acceptable gross growth in all sectors: agriculture 6.1 percent; oil 8.7 percent; industry 14.5 percent; and services 6.7 percent. We have reduced the growth rate of our services sector: mines 19.5 percent and water, power, and gas 9.1 percent, and construction 14.5 percent. These are their growth rates. If we achieve such growth rates, which, God willing we will, if no abnormal situation occurs, or if the foreigners do not impose other shocks and political conditions on us, we could achieve this growth by ourselves.

The capital investment growth of this plan at a constant annual price is 10.3 percent, which is a very high growth, and if realized, there would be a relatively good investment, nearly 60 percent of which belongs to the private sector and 40 percent to the government sector. We will try to make use of people's investments. Various sectors have been designed.

There is possibly a point in the 5-year plan which is still not clear to some people. It results from some Majles debates, or what was written by some newspapers, or what was said in some circles. They wanted to find fault by saying that this plan incorporates borrowing; that is, obtaining foreign loans. They said that in a way which may have caused some ambiguity in the minds of particularly a number of young people, and those who do not follow all the Majles debates. I would like to clarify this.

Firstly, what is to be consumed from current expenditure. [incomplete sentence as heard] The plan has been devised in such a way that whatever income we have—we have for example written down the amount which should be spent, but on the condition that the amount spent matches our income. For example, we have stipulated that $15 or 20 billion a year is to be spent, that is, spent in proportion to our income. The expenditure is made if the foreign exchange income is available; if not, then the expenditure would be less the amount we lack. It should be taken off the expenditure. Therefore, for the country's current and consumption issues, there will be no commitments whatsoever to the foreigners with regard to loans. There is a ceiling, above which we cannot spend. If our income exceeds that ceiling we will not be allowed to spend the excess and it should be given to the treasury. They have designated a limit, saying that the income could be spent to to that limit, and it has been divided into various sectors.

In one of two cases which involve some other fundamental tasks, they have authorized them to implement certain projects, with the aid of certain facilities acquired from abroad. This is what some regard as borrowing from abroad. This is not borrowing, and I will make this clear to you in plain language. It is not possible to hold detailed discussions in such mass gatherings, but I will explain this in a way which will also put the children and young people in the picture.

We have needs outside of the facilities which we have at our disposal and of our normal income, which cannot be covered by our present budget. That is to say, we do not have the foreign exchange for them. We have devised a way of overcoming this. There are some of our industries which, if constructed, would provide us with foreign exchange greater than the amount we have spent on them. We should be able to construct those industries with foreign facilities, and in the following years pay off the debts with the facilities gained in that way.

I will give you a few examples; for instance, paper. We now consume about 70,000 tonnes of paper, in this country for printing, publications, newspapers, packaging, and in a number of our industries. Our production is much below this level. We purchase our remaining requirement at an extortionate price.

Paper is among the world's expensive and strategic items. We have to spend foreign exchange to purchase paper. They make paper from the leaves of trees, its timber, from sugar-cane fiber, and other things which are wasted in conversion to other things. This plan authorizes the government to sign a contract with a company or a factory to come to this country and construct a paper-manufacturing factory. After they have completed it and displayed its products in the market for consumption; then, in a few year's time, they will be able to pay back that foreign currency borrowing of the 5 years, a year after the factory has achieved full production, through the sale of that paper to foreigners or through the saving which has been made by not purchashing from abroad.

Now, imagine if someone agrees to go to Mazandaran Province in order to construct a paper-manufacturing factory, to clean up the trees in our forests—the excess leaves of the trees could could be turned into paper—which are now falling all over the place and creating a nuisance, to the extent of even destroying the trees. Or alternatively, manufacturing paper from sugar-cane residue, a great quantity of which we burn in big piles—some of it we use as fodder and some is burned. They could convert this into paper, and with their own money.

If, for example, it has an income of $100 million, we take $80 million of it and spend $20 million of it to pay off that investment in the course of the 5 years.

Who calls this borrowing? Why do they call it borrowing? Why do they interpret it as such? This is a kind of exchange. It is an investment. Of course, the foreign investor has his share of the profit. He signs a contract with a bank which gives him the foreign exchange to come here. It makes a profit of 5, 10, or 15 percent; it does not do this without any charge. It has its share of the profit, and we have ours. [passage omitted] Or, for example, in the sea. At present, gentlemen—some of you may not be familiar with the sea—we produce around 300,000 barrels of oil a day. The oil which is produced there has gas. We flare off the gas there, in the sea. A large quantity of our wealth is at present being flared in the sea. If we do not exploit the oil, then the countries south of the Persian Gulf will take our quota as well as their own. This oil has to be exploited. If we exploit the oil and flare off the gas, this is the present talent. Thus was the talent of the shah era, and this is ours, which flares off these gases. [sentence as heard]

The proposal is this, that we should permit—and it is an expensive task—a foreign company that wishes to make investments in the sea, to pipe that gas and use it in some way, and for example to take 10 or 20 percent of that gas, as the expenditure made by its company. Could this be called a borrowing which makes the country dependent? Or is it that it is dependent now? The burning of the country's assets in the way we are doing now, this is not confined to the sea but to the land as well. If you take a plane to Ahvaz, you will notice thousands of burning fires. It is as though they have piped a line to the sky. Those are the gases in the oil which they are burning off. Those gases could be consolidated somewhere, like in the Iran-Japan petrochemical factory, and converted into products to help run 300-400 of our industries, for example in the melamines, refrigerators, and other things which run on oil products, materials, and so on. These gases are being burned there. We manufacture hundreds of products in our country, the ingredients for which we purchase from abroad. We are spending foreign exchange in order to purchase from abroad the synthetic which runs hundreds of our weaving factories, while their chief ingredients are those things which at present are being flared off in the form of gases polluting Khuzestan's environment. That oil must be exploited.

The proposal is that the government is authorized to use foreign exchange in order to consolidate those gases, convert them into petrochemical products, selling them to the country's factories, to be turned into household goods, or else export them in return for foreign exchange while paying off the debts to that foreign company with 20 percent of it.

Now, which is more logical? The use of foreign loans or burning the gases till kingdom come. Those who say no agree with the latter. We cannot make investments so soon, and if we carry on in that way, never.

Or the dams. Now you know that for example from the Karun River which begins in Bakhtiari and pours in the Persian Gulf, we can receive around 8-9,000 or 7-8,000 megawatts of electricity, as much as the whole country consumes now. And we still have blackouts. The water can be controlled and used little by little in summer so that the people are not in so much trouble in winter.

The proposal was, and the Majles approved, that the government be permitted to construct those dams and pay its debts within a few years from the savings made from the natural gas, gasoline, and the paraffin which is used to generate electricity or from the agricultural profits made as a result of the construction of those dams.

Those are projects for the implementation of which, for example, around $20 billion has been allocated in the 5-year plan. For industry, petrochemicals, construction of dams, and so on. And there are still people in this country, in this corner or that corner, who call that borrowing and call it becoming dependent. Fortunately, the Majles, with the awareness that exists in the deputies and through debates, reached the conclusion that the 5-year plan was best for the country, and that it had to be authorized. The authorization has been given and the plan is now in the Council of Guardians for approval. If, God willing, with the existing grounds in the country and with the spirit that exist in people and with the relatively acceptable political situation which exist in the region and in affairs, if we can continue that process, we can witness long strides in our country's fundamental economic position.

There is also another point in my discussion for today, the main part of which I will read in the Arab sermon. I only mention that it is about the Iraqi propaganda and the Ba'th Party on Saddam's proposal that he has offered to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598. That was a very demagogic proposal. There is no positive point in that proposal. There is no mention of the withdrawal from the Iranian territories. When it says that the POW's [prisoners on war] should be released, it mentions the POW's which were taken up to the year 1982, meaning those who were captured during the first 2-3 years of the war. That means we free 25,000, 26,000—those we took from Iraq in Khorramshahr's recapture when they did not even have 2-3,000 of our POW's—and they release 2-3,000 civilians who they captured in Ahvaz, around Hur and thereabouts, that is to free the people they took away from around Hoveyzeh, Hur, and Bostan and those places and send them here. That is the generous Iraqi proposal; and unfortunately the Arabic broadcasting stations, which usually resort to racist and nationalist positions and not Islamic ones, have resorted to sensationalism.

Fortunately the UN secretary general said that the proposal contained nothing. The proposal of the Islamic Republic is that the resolution should be implemented as stated by the UN secretary general. But because of the immediate action taken by the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, that propaganda plot was defeated and matters are following their path. We should issue a proposal so that Iraq does not offer a proposal every day. [Koranic passage omitted] God's peace and blessings upon you.

### Delivers Arabic Sermon

*NC1201203290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Friday prayers sermon in Arabic delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 12 January—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God. Salutations to the messenger of God, his scion, and the pious worshippers of God. Muslims of the world today are witnessing a lapse in the peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq and the nonimplementation of Resolution 598. They clearly see that Iraq is evading the acceptance of truth, clinging to a pretext in every round of negotiations, shirking one of its self-evident duties—the withdrawal from Islamic Iran's land—and hampering the establishment of peace and the return of the prisoners of war to their homelands and homes. We repeatedly announced before accepting the resolution that the Iraqi Ba'th Party, which kindled the fire of war and launched the aggression, does not seek peace. Its call for peace and a cease-fire were only aimed at rescuing itself from the hell which was of its own making and in which it was embroiled without finding a way out.

When we were advancing into Iraqi territory, they used to call us, through the various media ploys, the opponents of peace and advocates of war. As soon as we accepted the resolution, we volunteered to withdraw our forces from the depth of Iraqi territories to the international borders, as we withdrew from Halabjah, Khurmal, al-Tuwaylah, Mawat, and other Iraqi cities. But Iraq advanced into our land and occupied more of it, in addition to that which it had already captured, during the days in which a cease-fire was declared and at a time when our forces were pulling out of Iraqi territory. To date, Iraq refuses to withdraw to the borders according to the resolution, which stipulates that such a withdrawal should take place after the cease-fire. This is nothing unusual on the part of the Iraqi Ba'th Party. We knew in advance that it would not submit to justice unless forced to do so.

However, what is really astonishing is the position of the international organizations, world major powers, and our Arab neighbors, who talked about peace during the years of war. Today, they do not utter such statements, nor do they apply any pressure to the aggressor and violator. What is stranger still is the position of our Arab neighbors, who sometimes make erroneous statements to encourage the aggressor, who began the war, instead of defending justice and peace. Sooner or later, they will regret this.

In the namne of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Say: He is God, the One and Only; God the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him. [Koranic verses] May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

### RESALAT Carries Deputies' Letter to Khamene'i

*NC1101114490 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Jan 90 p 2*

[Text] News section—Two hundred and seventeen Majles deputies have sent a letter to Ayatollah Khamene'i, the lofty leader of the Islamic revolution, in which they express their comprehensive support for the vice regency of the jurisconsult.

Our correspondent reports that many Majles deputies who signed the letter also stated their views in an attachment to the letter. We have obtained the remarks submitted by 33 deputies which we publish below for our dear readers' perusal. We will publish the remarks by the rest of the deputies when they become available.

The text of the letter reads:

In the name of the almighty.

To the esteemed presence of leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may your blessings be everlasting.

With greetings and with respect.

It is clear to everyone that the vice regency of the jurisconsult is one of the indestructible pillars of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that it is among the religious and revolutionary duties of each and every member of this nation to support it. The vice regency of the jurisconsult was one of the permanent aspirations of the late leader of the revolution and of Islam, His Eminance Ayatollah Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and the foundation of the great movement of that great late leader. As a result of God's grace, the Islamic ummah witnessed the blessings and fruits of its implementation in the prophetic leadership of his eminence the imam and is now witnessing its continuation in the shadow of Your Eminence's leadership. Therefore, no one doubts the need to support this important principle. Everyone knows that the system of the Islamic Republic is based on important pillars. After the vice regency of the jurisconsult, who heads the system, comes the Majles which is granted some 40 specific rights and powers under the Constitution. His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, described the Majles as "the supreme power," "at the head of all affairs," "the essence of the nation's virtues," and "the center of all powers and laws." The various articles of the Constitution concerning the Majles, including Articles 76, 88, and 90, state that its deputies are responsible to the entire nation and have the right to express their views on all the country's domestic and foreign affairs to the extent that they can even question and interpellate the president, the

cabinet, and each and every minister. Naturally, all these powers are within the framework of preserving the system's general interests and contribute toward the implementation of popular sovereignty. Necessary attention must be paid to this basic issue in all the processes involved. We express our gratitude that the lofty leader emphasized in his remarks the need to defend the system and its executive officials. Undoubtedly, this is one of our most significant religious and revolutionary duties. It is a source of great pleasure that the Majles has always been a forerunner in this and has, with all its might and at all times—from the government of martyr Raja'i to the government of Engineer Musavi and the government of His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani—in its votes of confidence and its discussions on the 5-year plan and other issues displayed great bravery and extended cooperation and support. This body will always support any organ or institution which serves the Islamic revolution and the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is natural that the strengthening and consolidation of the system and the powers ruling in it, including the judicial and the executive powers, can be possible only as the result of the implementation of the duties of the legislative power. In view of the heavy responsibility that rests on the shoulders of the Majles in the Islamic system and in order to safeguard the honor of Islam and the interests of the people, the Majles cannot ignore its duties as a careful and serious observer of affairs. Naturally, this popular and divine organ and the people's deputies will always be alert and sympathetic observers and defend the rights of the system and of the people. In conclusion we reiterate our comprehensive support for the esteemed position of the vice regency of the jurisconsult and Your Eminence's guidelines.

1. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Tehran: I have read the text of the letter which appears to be more a discussion of supporting the leader than of supporting and defending the Majles. The Majles seems to have been put on the same level as the leader; however, the leader is one thing and the Majles is another. At any rate, the part concerning support for the leadership is approved.

2. Esma'il Ferdowsipur, Mashhad: I concur with Mr Nateq-Nuri's attached remark.

3. Hoseyn Sobhani-Nya, Neyshabur: I concur with the above remark.

4. Mostafa Marsali, Abhar and Khorramdarreh: In the name of God. Supporting the leadership is a duty and this statement is a statement of the Majles' support.

5. Habib Borumand, Moghan: I concur only with that part which supports the esteemed leadership.

6. Hasan Ja'fari, Shahr-e Babak: In the name of God. I respectfully support the esteemed leadership and see no difference between the two issues.

7. Hoseyn-'Ali Ziya'i, Takab, Sa'indezh, Miandoab: In the name of God. In the existing system of the Islamic Republic which is the legacy of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul rest in peace, the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran depends on the blessed existence of the vice regency of the jurisconsult who is currently Ayatollah Khamene'i.

8. Yar Mohammad 'Arab 'Ameri, Garmsar: In the name of God. The legitimacy of all the branches lies in the existence of the vice regency of the jurisconsult, and referring to the branches within the context of the leadership weakens the power of the vice regency of the jurisconsult.

9. Seyyed Reza Akrami, Semnan: In the name of God. I endorse and support the stance which the esteemed leadership stated on Wednesday. May God reform everyone.

10. Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Shahidi, Mahallat and Delijan: I state my full support for the recent remarks by the esteemed leadership and state my full obedience to his eminence.

11. Davud Towhidi, Borujen and Lordegan: I express my full obedience to the remarks of the esteemed leadership.

12. Sadiqi, Bonab and Malekan: In the name of God. I defend the remarks of the esteemed leadership.

13. 'Ali Rahim Yusefpur, Ardal and Farsan: In the name of God. Unfortunately, a Majles that has, in the words of his eminence the imam, may his soul rest in peace, always been at the head of affairs and that has, according to the authors of the letter, always been a forerunner, should not take 5 days longer than the rest of the people and organs to express its support for the leadership. In conclusion, I wish to express my full support for the esteemed leadership.

14. Mir-Ghaffari, Hashtpar-e Tavalesh: I only support the warnings and remarks by the esteemed leadership.

15. Asadollah Tabe', Takab, Sa'indezh, Miandoab: In the name of God. I hereby wish to reaffirm my allegiance to the esteemed leadership.

16. Seyyed Jalil Seyyedzadeh, Bakhtaran: In the name of God. I support the leadership's stance at any time and on any issue.

17. 'Ali Movahhedi-Savoji, Saveh: In the name of God. Supporting and strengthening the leadership and the vice regency of the jurisconsult is tantamount to strengthening the Majles and the entire system.

18. Hasan Ruhani, Tehran: In the name of God. On the basis of the teachings of Islam and Article 57 of the Constitution, the legitimacy of the Majles can be gained through full obedience to the vice regency of the jurisconsult. I state my obedience to the esteemed vice regency of the jurisconsult and express my support for his remarks of 27 December.

19. Hoseyn Harati, Sabzevar: In the name of God. The legitimacy of the Islamic Republic system focuses on full and unconditional obedience to the esteemed leadership.

20. Amir Mir, Zahedan: In the name of God. Even though this text is unworthy of the esteemed leader since the Majles has been put on the same level as the leadership, nevertheless the part concerning support for the leadership is endorsed and I state my unconditional obedience to the esteemed leadership.

21. Mahmud Niazi, Bijar: In the name of God. I express support for the recent remarks by the esteemed leadership.

22. Damadi, Sari: It is the duty of each and every one of us to obey the leadership.
23. Seyyed Farajollah Afrazideh, Chalus and Nowshahr: In the name of God. May God protect the Islamic revolution from factionalism.
24. Beytollah Ja'fari, Urumiyeh: In the name of God. Everyone, even the Majles, heeds the orders by the vice regency of the jurisconsult and the Majles gains its legitimacy from the vice regency of the jurisconsult. Praise be to Khamene'i.
25. Seyyed Hashem Bani-Hashemi, Mashhad: Support for the vice regency of the jurisconsult and his recent remarks in relation to activities by individuals who have weakened the officials of the system. [sentence incomplete as published]
26. Nikfar, Eqlid: In the name of God. I endorse only the support expressed for the esteemed leadership and his remarks.
27. Seyyed Ahmad Hoseyni-Sirjani, Sirjan: The recent censure [malamat] of the Majles by the guardian of the Muslims' cause is welcomed. I hope that those to whom it was addressed heed the warning.
28. Esma'ili, Hashtrud: In the name of God. I consider the legitimacy of the system of the Islamic Republic to lie in unconditional obedience toward the leadership.
29. Seyyed Hasan Shoja'i, Sari: In the name of God. In the imamate system, obedience to the vice regency of the jurisconsult is a principle and all pillars of the country rest in the hands of the vice regency of the jurisconsult; otherwise, we would have corruption.
30. Mofid Kia'inezhad, Savojbolagh and Taleqan: In the name of God. The legitimacy of the Majles depends on obedience to the leadership.
31. Farzpur, Astara: Virtue and grace can help win the world.
32. Asadi, Qasr-e Shirin: In the name of God. I support the recent remarks by the esteemed leadership.
33. Seyyed 'Abdolsaheb Musavi, Shadegan: In the name of God. I express my full obedience to the esteemed leadership.

### Sunni Deputies Send Message to Khamene'i

*NC1101180990 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Jan 90 p 5*

[Letter sent by the Sunni deputies of the Majles to Ayatollah Khamene'i on 2 January]

[Text] In His exalted name.

To the most auspicious and gracious presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, may your lofty shadow continue.

With salutations and greetings on the graceful spirit of Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran—may his soul be sanctified—we, the Association of Sunni Deputies of the Islamic Majles of Iran, consider it our duty in this era of reconstruction to declare, as we did in the past, our multilateral support for and obedience to the sacred position of the leader of the Islamic revolution, esteemed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the respected Majles speaker, Mr Karrubi. In these sensitive circumstances—out of obedience to the sublime guidance of Your Excellency and in light of the holy verses: "Hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves"—we express support for the hallowed ideals of the Islamic revolution.

[Signed] Ahmad Taha, 'Abdorrahman Barzanji, Yaghmur Qolizadeh, Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, 'Ali Mohammad Babakhas, Mas'ud Hashemzahi, 'Abdol 'Aziz Dadgar, Hamideddin Mollazahi, Seyyed 'Abdollah Hoseyni, Fakhreddin Rezazahi, 'Abdollah Tatli.

### Medical University Chancellors Support Khamene'i

*LD1101121290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 90*

[Text] The chancellors of medical science universities from all over the country issued a resolution at the end of their seminar which referred to the fact that the legitimacy of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran stems from the principle of the vice regency of the jurisconsult, from the support for vice regency of the jurisconsult, and they reiterated their full obedience to the instructions of the vice regent of the Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. In this resolution, the chancellors of medical science universities, while endorsing the government's reconstruction plans, declared their readiness to take part in reconstruction, and stressed that in specialist reconstruction matters they will strive to serve with everything in their power.

Another part of the resolution stresses the need for improvement in the qualitative and quantitative level of medical training, and the priority of hygiene over treatment. It says: No effort will be spared in order to provide and expand a much better medical service all over the country, and efforts will continue to realize the goal of 100 percent coverage of the hygiene networks.

### 31 Drug Traffickers Executed in Tehran, Shiraz

*LD1001111890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 90*

[Text] Continuing the ceaseless and resolute confrontation with the merchants of death, 31 more narcotics smugglers and embodiments of corruption [as heard] were hanged this morning on the basis of verdicts issued by Islamic Revolution Courts of Tehran, Shiraz, Sabzevar, and Saveh. Those executed had been involved in forming international drug trafficking gangs, and had continuously cooperated and engaged in buying and selling narcotics. Some of them had also been active in forming centers of vice and prostitution—thereby corrupting the youth—stealing, inflicting grievious bodily harm, and supplying and distributing nearly 4,000 kg of various kinds of narcotics.

The Central New Unit reports that out of that number, 23 were hanged in Tehran, 3 in Shiraz, 3 in Sabzevar, and 2 in Saveh.

## Nepal

### Foreign Minister Says India Talks 'Satisfactory'

*BK0601002890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2056 GMT 5 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] Kathmandu, Jan 5 (AFP)—Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya returned here late Friday [5 January] from New Delhi and said his talks aimed at ending a trade and transit dispute with India were "satisfactory."

Mr. Upadhyaya added that official talks would be held in New Delhi in early February to discuss proposed trade and transit treaties, to be followed by a visit to Nepal by Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

Immediately after his arrival, Mr. Upadhyaya went to the royal palace to brief King Birendra on the outcome of his three days of talks with Indian leaders, sources close to the foreign minister said. [passage omitted]

Mr. Upadhyaya had wide-ranging talks with Mr. Gujral during his visit and also met Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and handed him a letter from King Birendra.

### Delhi Radio Cites Remarks

*BK0601084390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Jan 90*

[Text] India-Nepal official-level talks will be held in New Delhi in the 1st week of next month. These will be followed by the ministrial-level discussions between the two countries. This was disclosed by the Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, in Kathmandu yesterday while talking to newsmen at Tribhuvan airport on his return from New Delhi. He said the external affairs minister, Mr Gujral, will be visiting Kathmandu next month for the discussions. Mr Upadhyaya hoped that most of the issues concerning India-Nepal relations will be discussed during Mr Gujral's visit.

Answering a question, he described his talks with Indian leaders during his New Delhi visit as satisfactory. He said his visit was the beginning of a process to understand each other's position.

Referring to his meeting with the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Nepalese foreign minister said he is greatly impressed with his sincerity and simplicity.

Answering a question whether security perception of India came up at the talks, Mr Upadhyaya said several aspects of India-Nepal relations were discussed.

### King To Confer New Titles on Crown Prince

*BK0101055090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0531 GMT 1 Jan 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 1 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal will mark the coming of age of Crown Prince Dipendra by making him colonel-in-chief of the Royal Nepalese Army and grandmaster of all the orders of the Kingdom of Nepal at a special ceremony here Wednesday [3 January], a palace statement said Monday.

The prince, who will be 18, will take part in a ceremony at the Narayanhity royal palace, pay homage at the shrines of Hindu deities and take the salute at a ceremonial march-past of soldiers of all brigades of the Army, the statement said.

## Pakistan

### Soviet Ambassador Summoned Over Missile Incident

*BK1201153590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Viktor P. Yakunin, was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and was apprised of the Pakistani Govenment's deep concern over the Scud missile fired by the Kabul regime which fell near Wah on Wednesday [10 January]. The Soviet ambassador was informed that the charge d'affaires of the Kabul regime was also being summoned and that a strong protest would be lodged with him over the incident.

The UN goodwill mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan has also been asked to investigate the incident.

The Soviet ambassador was also requested to ask his government to use its good offices in Kabul to ask the Kabul regime to desist from such activities.

### PRC To Help Build Second Nuclear Power Station

*BK1501090690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] Pakistan is discussing the possibility of building nuclear power stations with other countries to meet its energy requirements. This was stated by the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], Mr Munir Ahmed Khan, while inaugurating a 3-week course on quality assurance for mechanical equipment in Islamabad this morning. He said that Pakistan is planning to build its second nuclear power station of 200 megawatt with the assistance of the People's Republic of China.

The chairman of the PAEC emphasized the need for quality assurance measures on all equipment installed in nuclear power plants. He said Pakistan is fortunate that so far there have been no radiation accidents in any of its nuclear facilities. The release of radioactivity to the environment in the country has been limited within 1/10th of the permissible limit.

Mr Munir Ahmed Khan said the commission is setting up a national nondestructive (?processing) center in Islamabad, which would be ready in the next few years. The center will play a leading role in increasing the awareness of quality control in the country. The course is being attended by experts from various industrial units.

### Foreign Office Spokesman Discusses Various Issues

#### Bhutto Envoy's Visit to India

*BK1401132290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today expressed the Pakistan Government's satisfaction with the outcome of the visit to New Delhi by the prime minister's special envoy, Mr Abdul Sattar, to convey a message of goodwill to her Indian counterpart.

At a briefing this afternoon, the spokesman said Mr Sattar's mission was limited and specific, and he carried Ms Benazir Bhutto's message reiterating Pakistan's desire to live in peace, maintain good-neighborly relations, and to solve bilateral problems peacefully. The spokesman said there would be more deeper and wider contacts between the two countries in future.

The spokesman said Mr V.P. Singh warmly reciprocated the Pakistan prime minister's message and expressed his desire to build an atmosphere of confidence and trust between the two countries and shared her desire for the promotion of good-neighborly relations.

#### 'Deep Concern' Over Indian Kashmir

*BK1401142290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Excerpt] A Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed Pakistan's deep concern over the deteriorating situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir. At a news briefing in Islamabad today, the spokesman stated in categorical terms that Pakistan is an important party to the Kashmir dispute and therefore all the aspects of the situation are being regularly reviewed and will continue to be reviewed. He said it is evident that the dissatisfaction of the Kashmir people is becoming more explicit due to the continuous negation of the right of self-determination. This situation is quite dangerous, and the people of Pakistan are deeply concerned over the increased use of force, daily curfews, shooting incidents, casualties, and atrocious actions. [passage omitted]

#### 'Deterioration' in Indian Kashmir

*BK1401145690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Jan 14 (AFP)—Pakistan on Sunday [14 January] expressed "deep concern" over the increasing use of force in Indian-held Kashmir and said New Delhi was perpetually denying the rights of Kashmiris.

"We are deeply concerned over the deterioration in the situation" in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir, a Foreign Office spokesman said. [passage omitted]

A campaign launched mainly by the Kashmir Liberation Army (KLA) became militant last month and almost all major cities and towns have been placed under curfew in the area.

The spokesman said the Kashmir situation was discussed during the visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's special envoy Abdul Sattar to India this week.

India expressed fears of foreign support of the movement, he said, and Pakistan refuted suspicions that support for the Kashmiri struggle was coming from across the line of control dividing the northern state since 1948.

Asked if Pakistan expected an influx of Kashmiris and a breaking of the line of control similar to the demolition of the Berlin Wall and the movement in Soviet Azerbaijan, he said "it is not proper on our part to derive an anology."

He also said Pakistan was not providing weapons to the anti-Indian movement in Kashmir.

"We are absolutely certain that no hostile activity is emanating from the Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir." The line of control is "well-fortified and guarded by thousands of troops," he added.

"Whatever is happening in occupied Kashmir is internally based," he said, adding that Pakistan was scrupulously adhering to the Simla agreement of 1972 which calls for respect of the ceasefire line.

"We expect India to reciprocate," he said, adding that an "unprecedented era of peace" had been experienced by the two countries since the Simla agreement, which denounces the use of force in settling the bilateral disputes.

He disagreed with the premise that the situation in kashmir could erupt into war as it was similar to that of 1965 which ignited hostilities.

The two countries, he said had devised a mechanism to prevent the situation from degenerating into a war.

#### Normalizing Relations With India

*BK1401162290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jan 90*

[Excerpts] A Foreign Office spokesman has expressed Pakistan's deep concern over the deteriorating situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir. At a news briefing in Islamabad today, he categorically stated that Pakistan is an important party to the Kashmir dispute and that the situation is being regularly reviewed and will continue to be reviewed. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, the spokesman said the recent events in the occupied Kashmir are the outcome of the local conditions and that searching elsewhere for its causes would be mere self-deceit. The situation is still grave, and India cannot simply explain it away by accusing Pakistan of harboring some freedom-lovers of the Kashmir Liberation Movement.

He referred to the negative tendency of the Indian press that blew the Kashmir issue out of proportion during the visit of the prime minister's special emissary, Abdul Sattar, to New Delhi. The Indian leaders referred to foreign intervention in Kashmir and Punjab due to the claims of the Indian press, but they did not make any special consideration of this aspect. In reply to a question, the spokesman said Pakistan does not have any intention of sending arms into Kashmir. The spokesman rejected any hostile activities near the line of control and said the world's strictest watch is being maintained on this line.

On the process of normalizing relations between India and Pakistan, he said since the revival of democracy in Pakistan the pace of this process has really been expedited. Some agreements, like not attacking each other's nuclear installations, have been reached between the two countries and there is gradual progress regarding other issues. If the current process of normalizing relations continues, there is no reason that both the countries will not be able to resolve other outstanding issues between them.

On Siachen, the spokesman said this issue is necessarily included in the talks between the two countries and hoped that the defense secretary-level talks will be soon held on this issue. [passage omitted]

On the next summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the spokesman said it is expected that Sri Lanka will decide by next Wednesday whether or not to host the summit. It is being anticipated in Islamabad that Sri Lanka will intimate Pakistan, which is the chairman of the organization, of its decision. After getting information on the decision, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will visit the capitals of other South Asian countries for consultations.

### Kashmir President Urges Solution of Kashmir Issue

*BK1301154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] The Kashmiri citizens were prevented from staging a protest demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad today under Section 144, which prohibits assembly of four or more persons at one place. These Kashmiri citizens wanted to express their solidarity with the Kashmiri freedom fighters in the occupied Kashmir and to offer funeral prayers in absentia for those killed at the hands of the Indian security forces.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan has called for an early settlement of Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. Talking to a number of delegations in Ghaziabad today, he said a solution to this problem is indispensable for peace and progress in South Asia. He paid rich tribute to the Kashmiris for their heroic struggle against the occupation forces.

### Rallies Express Solidarity With Indian Kashmiris

*BK1201142890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 12 Jan 90*

[Text] Protest rallies took place in Azad Jammu and Kashmir today to express solidarity with those fighting for the liberation of occupied Kashmir. President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan led the rally in Pir Kot. In Mazaffarabad glowing tributes were paid to the freedom lovers at a large rally which later took the form of a large meeting.

There were also gatherings to conduct funeral prayers in absentia for those killed in the disturbances in occupied Kashmir. Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan participated in the funeral prayers in (Fatehpur Kotli).

## Sri Lanka

### No-Confidence Motion Defeated in Parliament

*BK1301110990 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] The no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against the government was defeated in Parliament last night by a majority of 41 votes. The vote was taken around 2200 [1630 GMT] yesterday. There were 75 votes for the motion and 116 against it.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, the Tamil United Liberation Front, and the United Socialist Alliance voted for the motion. Members of the Muslim Congress were not present in the House during the time of the vote, and the members of the Tamil Independent Group abstained from voting.

### Police Arrest Person Said 'Last Leader' of JVP

*BK1301111290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jan 90*

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, told the parliament yesterday that (Somavan Samarasinghe), said to be the last leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP], had been taken into custody by the police in Anuradhapura and investigations were under way to ascertain his identity.

## LTTE Claims TULF Leader Amirthalingam's Death

*BK1601021290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Jan 90*

[Text] And now news from Sri Lanka. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has publicly accepted responsibility for the assassination of the Tamil [United Liberation Front—TULF] leader, Mr Amirthalingam. The LTTE's Vavuniya area commander, Dinesh, made the claim at a public meeting in the town. He said the TULF leaders were killed for, what he called, betraying the Tamil people.

The claim comes exactly 6 months after the assassination. Reports say that it is likely to dampen the peace efforts in Sri Lanka.

At the same time, the four-party Tamil National Council [TNC] has called upon the Indian Government to postpone the signing of a friendship treaty with Colombo. In a signed statement, the leaders of the TNC said the treaty should be signed only after the problems of the Tamils are solved.

The continuing wave of violence in the island have claimed at least 41 more lives in the last 24 hours. According to official sources, 32 bodies of suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] rebels were found by the roadsides in Kandy and Matale districts. The bodies were either charred or headless.